

For your NEA you will need to engage with specialist Historical debate, research and narrative. It can appear daunting at first but this table can help you work out what kind of History you are reading and what it can help you with.



## How to deepen your historical knowledge



		Description	Examples from The "American Dream" topic	Examples from my topic
Starting	Textbooks that have been written for A level students with an A level specification in mind.	<p>Focused on preparing you for the exam, NOT writing an Academic Essay.</p> <p>They may not be written by an academic historian but by a successful teacher of the topic</p>	Mark Stacey, <i>The American Dream: Reality and Illusion</i> , 2015	
	Textbooks on longer periods of History covering your topic that have been written for A level or University students and people with an interest in History.	<p>These will be aimed at BIG overviews of the topic.</p> <p>They will contain new interpretations on how to tell the story of this period.</p> <p>There will be debate between historians of the same period</p>	<p>J de Pennington, <i>Modern America: 1865 to the Present</i>, 2005</p> <p>D Murphy, <i>Flagship History - United States 1917-2008</i>, Collins, 2008</p>	
Developing	Popular History that is academically researched but written for the mass market.	<p>These will be aimed at BIG overviews of the topic</p> <p>They will be written to inform and engage people. That may influence the structure, argument and sources used.</p> <p>They will be trying to say something new about the period.</p> <p>They may not reference the debate between historians but may add to it.</p>	<p>Victory Kiernan, <i>America: From White settlement to World Hegemony</i>, 2015</p> <p>Jill Lepore, <i>These truths: A History of the United States</i>, 2018</p>	
	Textbooks on the topic that have been written for A level and University students and people with an interest in History	<p>They will be aimed at the topic you are studying specifically</p> <p>They will be trying to say something new about the period or present the narrative in a new way</p>	J Patterson, <i>Grand Expectations: The United States, 1945-1974</i> , 1998	
Exploring specific themes	Books on a single topic written by a research Historian	They will be very focussed on one specific topic in your area of study	<p>They will be trying to make a specific point about the topic they are covering and therefore does not cover the whole period.</p> <p>D Farber, <i>The Age of Great Dreams: America in the Sixties</i>, 1994</p> <p>T Riches, <i>The Civil Rights Movement: Struggle and Resistance</i>, 2003</p> <p>Gillian Staerck and Derrick Murphy, <i>Martin Luther King and Malcom X</i>, <i>Modern History Review</i>, 2000</p>	
	Articles that delve into detail of a small aspect of your topic	They will be very focussed on a debate or issue in your topic		
Supporting	Sources found in Historian's work	Chronicles, Histories, Government records, Local records, Letters, Newspapers, Buildings, Objects, Books & Personal records	They will have been selected by historians and therefore have been used to support a point of view	<p>American Declaration of Independence</p> <p>Presidential speeches</p>
Researching	Sources found in archives	These sources are raw and therefore need careful study to find relevance to your topic	News reports of the Freedom Rides	