

In my time studying at Western Washington University, I received comprehensive instruction on the histories of multiple regions of the world, the United States, and the Pacific Northwest since time immemorial. Contained within were varieties of perspectives, moments, and focal points that I will attempt to convey to the students that I will one day teach. However, this does not mean that my learning is done, as there will always be more I can do to supplement my knowledge and enrich the learning experiences I create.

At WWU, the history options were varied, and I attempted to gain an understanding of parts of the history that I did not previously know. Classes like American Borderlands, African American Literature, and Govt/Politics of East Asia added to my knowledge of new locations and time periods while also introducing new viewpoints. In particular, I strongly enjoyed a class called The American Legal System, where we studied case histories revolving around women and gender, such as *Buck v. Bell* leading to forced hysterectomies in Virginia, and the modern legal battle around the right to receive an abortion. All of these added to the knowledge I can proffer in World History, US history, and civics. However, some gaps still remain. My understanding of the US Civil War-Reconstruction time period is strongly influenced by my residence in the PNW, so I will need to read more primary and secondary sources from non-PNW resources on this era to ensure I can teach it properly. My early research has led me towards the works and speeches of Frederick Douglass and textual and contextual analysis of the 14th and 15th Amendments, and I am interested in comparing this with the experience of the plains Native American during this time. One place that I feel strongly that my life experiences can help me is the Vietnam War, as my father is a Vietnamese immigrant who was forced to move to Japan (and eventually the US) after the outbreak of the war. This has led me to learn a lot about this event in my personal life, and I hope to give a unique experience when I teach something that affected my very existence.

I feel very strongly that my learned knowledge from education, research, and life are all pointing me towards a career as a history teacher, and I believe my checklist reflects that. However, we never stop learning, and I will continue to read, visit historical sites and museums, and grow my knowledge of the world so that I may take that with me into the education field.