

## HABITS OF THE MIND

1	Significance of the Past	...understand the significance of the past to their own lives, both private and public, and to their society.
2	What's Important, and What's Not	...distinguish between the important and the inconsequential, to develop the discriminating memory needed for discerning judgment in public and personal life.
3	Historical Empathy	...perceive past events and issues as they were experienced by people at the time, to develop historical empathy as opposed to present-mindedness.
4	Shared Humanity	...acquire at one and the same time a comprehension of diverse cultures and of shared humanity.
5	Change and Consequences	...understand how things happen and how things change, how human intentions matter, and how their consequences are shaped by the means of carrying them out, in a tangle between purpose and process.
6	Change and Continuity	...comprehend the interplay between change and continuity, and avoid assuming that either is somehow more natural or more to be expected than the other.
7	History is Unfinished Business	...prepare to live with uncertainties and exasperating—even perilous—unfinished business, realizing that not all problems have solutions.
8	Campaign Against Monocausality	...grasp the complexity of historical causation, respect particularity, and avoid excessively abstract generalizations.
9	History's Tentative Nature	...appreciate the often tentative nature of judgments about the past, and thereby avoid the temptation to seize upon particular “lessons” of history as cures for present ills.
10	People Who Made a Difference	...recognize the importance of individuals who have made a difference in history, and the significance of personal character for both good and ill.
11	The Unintended and Unexpected	...appreciate the force of the non-rational, the irrational, and the accidental, in history and in human affairs.
12	Time and Place are Inseparable	...understand the relationship between geography and history as a matrix of time and place and as context for events.
13	Evaluating Evidence	...read widely and critically in order to recognize the difference between fact and conjecture, and between evidence and assertion, thereby to frame useful questions.