

Questioning the author

US History Class, High School

Questions	Responses and References to the Text
What is the author saying? In other words, what is the main idea? How can I tell?	The author of the textbook is talking about the Civil Rights Movement. The main idea is that this was an important part of American history.
Why is the author saying this? Why is it important to know? What does his/her bias seem to be? How can I tell?	This is in our textbook because it's important in modern history. However, there are only about 20 pages in this chapter, and in the Civil War chapters, there are over 150 pages. Seems to me like the Civil War and Reconstruction must be a lot more important because of the space in the book devoted to this period.
Is the author's writing clear? Why or why not? How could he/she have been clearer or easier for students to understand?	The writing is pretty clear but not too detailed. I would like more details. For ex., on p. 542, there is this sentence about what happened to Rosa Parks after the bus incident: "Parks was arrested, tried, and convicted for disorderly conduct and violating a local ordinance." I think there could be a lot more information given.
How would I write this if I were the author?	Well, it could be a lot more interesting. The whole time period was exciting, and the textbook just makes it seem dull. The lack of detail is one thing that makes it dull. I think there could be parts of interviews with people in there, like Rosa Parks, asking, "Tell us why you decided to act on that exact day. What were you thinking?" I think the chapter could be more like a movie and less like a newspaper and it would be better.