

# WHY HERITAGE IN HISTORY CURRICULUM?

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SASHT CONFERENCE - GOLDEN GATE - FREE  
STATE

- **OUR HERITAGE IS ALL AROUND US. IT IS PART OF WHO WE ARE. KNOWING OUR HERITAGE HELPS US TO UNDERSTAND THE EVENTS OF THE PAST. OUR HERITAGE IS NOT JUST OLD BUILDINGS AND MONUMENTS. IT IS THE STONES, DANCES, SONGS, MUSIC, ROCK PAINTINGS AND SACRED PLACES OF ALL OUR CULTURES.**

- **BECAUSE THE TEACHING OF HERITAGE IS CENTRAL TO THE PROMOTION OF ALL HUMAN VALUES. THIS IS BECAUSE HERITAGE IS ABOUT ALL THOSE VALUABLE THINGS WE INHERITED FROM PREVIOUS GENERATIONS THAT WE, IN TURN, WANT TO PASS ON TO OUR CHILDREN.**

- **THE FORMAL STUDY OF HERITAGE NURTURES BOTH SPIRIT OF CRITICAL INQUIRY AND ASSISTS IN THE FORMATION OF HISTORICAL CONSCIOUSNESS.**
- **WE ARE LIVING IN A COUNTRY WHICH IS CURRENTLY ATTEMPTING TO REMAKE ITSELF IN TIME-THE STUDY OF HERITAGE HELPS TO PREVENT AMNESIA AND OPPOSES THE MANIPULATIVE USE OF THE PAST.**

- **THE STUDY OF HERITAGE HELPS LEARNERS IN DEVELOPING A COMMITMENT TO ADDRESSING SOCIAL INJUSTICES, ABUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND A DETERIORATING ENVIRONMENT.**

# THE STUDY OF HERITAGE AIMS AT:

- **HELPING LEARNERS TO DEVELOP A STRONG SENSE OF THEMSELVES THROUGH A STUDY OF THEIR OWN HERITAGE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE BROADER HISTORY OF SOUTH AFRICA**
- **DEEPENING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE SCHOOL AND THE COMMUNITY THROUGH CO-OPERATION AND MUTUAL SUPPORT IN EDUCATIONAL ENDEAVOURS**

- **DEVELOPING A SENSE OF OUR DIVERSE HISTORIES, WHICH WILL CONTRIBUTE TO A COMMON MEMORY AND ENSURE THAT WE DO NOT FORGET THE LESSONS OF OUR PAINFUL PAST.**
- **GENERATING AWARENESS AND COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS, DEMOCRACY AND ANTI-RACISM AMONG LEARNERS, TEACHERS AND PARENTS.**

- **INCULCATING THE IMPORTANCE OF HISTORY IN LEARNERS, TEACHERS AND THE COMMUNITY.**
- **FOCUSING ATTENTION ON THE IMPORTANCE OF ORAL HISTORY AS A SOURCE OF HISTORICAL EVIDENCE.**
- **ENCOURAGING AND RECOGNISING THE DEVELOPMENT OF GOOD HISTORY TEACHING PRACTICE.**



- **CONFRONTING AND CHALLENGING ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL INEQUALITY, INCLUDING RACISM AND SEXISM IN ORDER TO BUILD A NON-RACIAL, DEMOCRATIC PRESENT AND FUTURE.**
- **ENGAGING IN DEBATE AND CRITICAL QUESTIONING WHICH WILL FOSTER A CULTURE OF OPENNESS.**

- **CONFRONTING AND CHALLENGING APARTHEID MYTHS WHICH REINFORCE RACISM AND STEREOTYPES SUCH AS THE 'EMPTY LAND' THEORY.**
- **DEVELOPING CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY AND AN UNDERSTANDING OF TOLERANCE IN THE CONTEXT OF OUR CONSTITUTION.**

- **PROMOTING THE USE OF, AND AN APPRECIATION AND RESPECT FOR, AFRICAN LANGUAGES AS A MEANS OF HEARING AND LISTENING TO THE SILENCED VOICES OF THE PAST.**

**BY STUDYING HERITAGE, LEARNERS CAN NOT ONLY GAIN AN UNDERSTANDING OF CHRONOLOGY OF THE DYNAMICS OF CHANGE OVER TIME, BUT THEY CAN WORK OUT FOR THEMSELVES WHAT IS GOOD OR BAD, WHAT IS RIGHT OR WRONG.**

- **AFTER ALL, FOR ANY OCCUPATION REQUIRING A TRAINED AND EDUCATED MIND, THE MANAGEMENT OF PEOPLE OR SOUND HUMAN RELATIONS, THE STUDENT OF HISTORY IS BETTER QUALIFIED THAN MOST.**

**THANK YOU**