

*Why do learners choose History  
in Gr 10?*

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# Setting the scene ...


- Fixating on those who don't ...
- The numbers tells us ...
- Neo-liberalism ...
- False prophets of SMEC ...
- The compulsion conundrum ...
- The scene of our research ...

# WHY DO LEARNERS' CHOOSE HISTORY IN GRADE 10?

- Compulsion, streaming, pseudo-medical judgements ...
- The fall out of “choosing” History ...
- Reasons for really choosing History :

“In grade 8 and 9 my teacher told me to choose maths but out of love I chose history” and “I chose history out of pure love although I had an option to choose science” and “Although history has scarce job opportunities I chose it out of pure love” and “I chose history out of love and even refused when my friends advised me to choose science”.

# Why then choose History?

- The idea of  of a certain kind of knowledge.
- Nature of History (philosophical and theoretical).
- Historical content (regardless). E.g.. – Love of history and apartheid – specialised history knowledge.

- “I love history although sometimes it brings pain as to how our forefathers were ill-treated by the apartheid system”.
- “I study history to understand the apartheid system of National Party’s discrimination towards blacks”.
- “History teaches us about the hardships that were experienced by our forefathers during the apartheid period”.
- What is strange about the views of learners who chose history is the absence of negative emotional feeling about whites actions, instead they want answers as to how apartheid unfolded even in their own rural context as explained by the following claims: “By looking at rural areas you can see the traces and imprints of the apartheid” and “By looking at rural areas you can get an understanding of how it happened that they are backwards from urban areas as it is claimed”.

# SO WHAT?

Ebbels-Hoving's - Homo Historia (2011) - innate aptitude for the subject.

I would argue that we would do well to treasure and foster young Homo Historias rather than spill our energy pursuing young Homo Historia Abandons.

But how is the challenge.