

History

Work sample 2: Discussion – Historical accuracy of film Kokoda

Relevant part of the achievement standard

By the end of Year 10, students refer to key events, the actions of individuals and groups, and beliefs and values to explain patterns of change and continuity over time. They analyse the causes and effects of events and developments and explain their relative importance. They explain the context for people's actions in the past. Students explain the significance of events and developments from a range of perspectives. They explain different interpretations of the past and recognise the evidence used to support these interpretations.

Students sequence events and developments within a chronological framework, and identify relationships between events across different places and periods of time. When researching, students develop, evaluate and modify questions to frame an historical inquiry. They process, analyse and synthesise information from a range of primary and secondary sources and use it as evidence to answer inquiry questions. Students analyse sources to identify motivations, values and attitudes. When evaluating these sources, they analyse and draw conclusions about their usefulness, taking into account their origin, purpose, and context. They develop and justify their own interpretations about the past. Students develop texts, particularly explanations and discussions, incorporating historical argument. In developing these texts and organising and presenting their arguments, they use historical terms and concepts, evidence identified in sources, and they reference these sources.

Summary of task

Students viewed the feature film *Kokoda*, directed by Alistair Grierson. They then investigated the history of the Kokoda campaign. This task was completed over four weeks. Students had open access to resources, including teacher feedback.

Students were asked to use their knowledge of the Kokoda campaign to evaluate the accuracy of the film *Kokoda* by completing the following activities.

- Choose three aspects of the campaign to compare what you know from your research with how they are depicted in the film *Kokoda*. Select two primary sources for each aspect.
- Use the scaffold provided and your primary sources to answer this question: To what extent does the film *Kokoda*, directed by Alistair Grierson, accurately represent aspects of the Kokoda campaign?

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Scaffold

Introduction

- Begin with a statement (hypothesis) that rates the extent to which you agree with the accuracy of the film, for example: to a limited extent, a large extent, completely.
Answer the question using the wording of the question, do not use personal pronouns.
- Introduce three areas you are going to compare for accuracy, for example terrain, living conditions and disease, problems of supply, weapons, the nature of the battle.
- Turn of argument: provide one sentence that acknowledges that the very nature of feature film creates its own limitations for historical accuracy.

Body paragraph 1

- Your topic sentence introduces the first aspect for comparison. Discuss how accurately this aspect is represented in the film and how it compares with the primary sources you have chosen. These are your evidence.
- Make sure you footnote each time you refer to your primary sources.
- Use present tense when referring to the film, but past tense when discussing real historical events.
- Your closing statement should rate the extent to which the primary sources support the accuracy of the film in its representation of this aspect of the campaign.

Body paragraph 2: As per paragraph 1, comparing your second aspect.

Body paragraph 3: As per paragraph 1, comparing your third aspect.

Body paragraph 4

- Turn of argument. This is where you address the nature of the film as evidence (usefulness and limitations) including an acknowledgement of the bias inherent in all sources. You do not have to overturn your argument. Instead, discuss the issue of accuracy versus usefulness.

Conclusion

- Sum up your argument with a definite statement that rates the accuracy of the film in its representation of the real life campaign. Is it an accurate representation of history? Refer to your sources and how well the film represents them.