



After the Fact: The Art of Historical Detection, Volume 1

James West Davidson , Mark H. Lytle

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Volume 1 of a 2-volume work that uses 15 dramatic episodes in American history to show students how historians go about the business of interpreting the past. It discusses historical methods within the context of an historical narrative so that students may learn about American history at the same time as seeing how historians use a variety of evidence (diaries, letters, photographs and records) and methods to explain the past.

After the Fact: The Art of Historical Detection, Volume 1 Details

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Marisa Capellan-Battle says

This book was purchased as a text book for Historical Methodologies, but the book itself was very interesting and helped to change the way I view history and everyday current affairs. The case studies were interesting to read as well.

2bnallegory says

Very enlightening and opens possibilities to what more can be found than bald facts in textbooks

Emily says

so fun to read! this book uses chapters to illustrate how historical investigation -- uncovering the 'truth' of what happened in the past -- is equivalent to the seemingly more glamorous detective work used to solve mysteries in movies, tv, and real life. so engagingly written, this book catapults students from feeling sort of blah, removed, and vaguely interested in the study of history, to being on the edge of their seats with interest, critically thinking, and most of all, vividly imagining what might have happened in the past -- and the most probable, proveable way of how it happened. Chapter on Salem witch trials especially juicy. Rad read!

Walt says

Supposedly a primer for historical research. Most it should come naturally from college history classes.

Matthew McDonough says

THIS is what history is all about!!!

Virag says

APUSH torture...

Pat says

As a casual reader of history, I very much enjoyed the view of how historians work. The examples were very easy to follow, and covered interesting topics.
