

Dana Lee Bell

HST580

Dr. Kole

03/30/2021

Journal Entry Number 11

Why is it sometimes more difficult to write for a public audience?

Writing for a public audience is always difficult. There is a fine balance between expressing thoughts and opinions on a topic and alienating the audience. It can be challenging to present new ideas to the public without meeting some kind of resistance. I find that no matter how educated I am on a topic, I will meet people who question my knowledge. That is ok and I try to go with it. But it is important to connect with the people I am trying to share information with. I don't want to seem pompous or arrogant, but I also want to express some authority on a topic or why should they listen to anything I have to say?

At this point in my academic life, writing academically is easier. As a teacher myself I do get practice sharing my knowledge with students every day. However, those types of discourse are not the same that I would use when trying to write for a public audience. I do not have much practice with that. Which is why I am struggling with the blog post idea so much. I know what I want to say, but expressing it has been difficult for me.

Looking ahead in this class, a lot of the activities are for Interns who may be looking into public historian work. I don't have any plans to not be a teacher. I love what I do. I really just wanted to join the JOTPY Archives because I believe this is important work. I value what historians do and it gives me a sense of something bigger than myself, especially during Covid-19 when so much has been out of my control. My goal will be to do the assignments to the best of my ability, but mostly I want to contribute to the archives. I still have hundreds of items to submit. I want to curate and work on the exhibition. I want to finish strong. I am really proud to have been apart of all of this for so long.