



“Fundamental to the DP history course is a recognition that there is no single, simple narrative of the past. The course encourages students to explore the past in all its complexity, including the complex causes and consequences of historical events, diverse perspectives on the past, and diverse lived experiences of people and societies” (IB History Guide, 2026).

David McCullough was a Pulitzer Prize-winning, world renowned American historian. *History Matters* (2025) is a collection of speeches, essays, and interviews where he detailed the importance of history and the process in which he engaged in creating historical works throughout his career. In reading and analyzing this book, students should take a critical look at the role of historians and how they shape historical understanding.

Assignment:

After reading, students should come up with a list of 20 comments, critiques, standouts quotes, etc. that detail McCullough’s role and perspective as a historian. What is the role of history? What methods did he take? What do you agree with in his understanding about history? What of his claims or takes do you disagree with? What did he say that stood out as impactful or powerful to you? Your compilation should include a combination of quotes, annotations, comments, and critiques.

Formatting can be a numbered list, chart, or any other organized manner. Please include page numbers for each comment as to where you are referencing or commenting on so we can reference for in class discussions and assignment in August.

Assignment will be due in class on Monday August 10, 2026.

It can be submitted to an assignment on Google Classroom once school begins.