Final Log

*What have I learnt about history and historical thinking this term?*

Before this class, all I knew regarding history was history involves stories from the past, which are entertaining, but also, stories and events we are meant to learn from. You always hear we have to learn history so history doesn’t repeat itself. One important thing I learnt from this class is who is telling the history? Whose voice is being heard and whose is ignored. Something I wonder about is how do we actually know who is right and who is wrong? Of course it is not east to answer because they are events of the past and the only information we have to go by is from accounts from people of the past. The Chicotlin War assignment made me realize that there is not just one side to history. Since we had to determine if it was actually a war or murder we had to look at the evidence such as newspapers, government correspondence and may other to come to a conclusion. Through this assignment, I learnt that it was important to look at all the perspectives of the parties involved to see what is being said regarding the incident. On one hand, one party said it was a war and gave their evidence, while the other party declared it was suicide and gave their evidence. Since we were not present during this time, we have to come to a conclusion based on facts presented. Most cases, this is not an east task because Indigenous people pass on knowledge and accounts through storytelling and most times this could be lost in translation. Another factor is the relation of power and power imbalance. There were and still power imbalances between Indigenous peoples and “western” people, and those with more power have their voices heard.

In thinking historically, I have learnt that sometimes what we read isn’t exactly how things were and sometimes we have to read in between the lines to known and comprehend history. Thinking historically isn’t linear but rather it is circular.