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# Teaching Sport History: Reconstructing the Past

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## *Introduction*

The following teaching simulation was developed as a result of searching for approaches that would capture the interest of an undergraduate class, and at the same time provide for the development of basic problem solving skills.

## *Purpose*

The purpose is to provide a learning situation in which students are required to think systematically and to generalize from given data, using the principles of inquiry and problem-solving learning.

## *Objectives*

“Reconstructing the past” attempts to acquaint students with selected aspects of historiography and historical method. The inquiry skills of (1) careful analysis of evidence, (2) comparison of sources, and (3) evaluation of historical interpretation are explored.

## *Procedure*

Students are to analyze and interpret evidence from ancient Greek athletics. This evidence consists of sources from Greek art and documents. From this fragmentary evidence, students are to draw tentative conclusions regarding the organization and techniques of Greek athletics, and evaluate the worth of the data.

The students are presented with (1) an introductory statement including objectives and procedures, (2) a set of artifacts - mounted b. & w. photographs from vase paintings and sculpture (the sets may include 10 to 12 photos of the same or different sports), (3) a set of documents (from Robinson’s source book), and (4) a set of questions to guide the evaluation of the artifacts and documents.

*Conclusion*

The student findings are then compared with our most reliable historical information concerning Greek athletics.