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History 1120

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Research Paper Outline

Sources

For my research paper, my primary source is “Public Schools, City of Toronto. Report of the Past History and Present Condition, of the Common or Public Schools of the City of Toronto”1 written by the chairman, J.G Beard and the secretary G.A Barber. The secondary sources I will be using to back my thoughts up will be, “Children, Schooling, and Family Reproduction in Nineteenth-Century Ontario” written by Chad Gaffield2, “Egerton Ryerson and the School as an Agent of Political Socialization” written by Neil Mcdonald3, “The Common Schools Acts of Upper Canada; and the Forms, Instructions, and Regulations for Executing Their Provisions Together with Circulars Addressed to the Various Officers Concerned in the Administration of the School Law.”4 Written by Egerton Ryerson.

Statement Process

1. Originally I had chosen a topic on residential schools but later found out that the dates were way off so I needed to find a new topic. After looking through the archive of different books about schooling in Ontario I settled on this article written by the chairman and the secretary because I felt it was more personal to the topic and the information put in the article.
2. I chose my sources by going through the archive Professor Penny Light provided to me, which was through the “Early Canadiana Online.” As stated above, I chose this article because of the personal notes and ideas that would be included in the paper. I chose the secondary sources I did because, they all correspond with the topic well and they all tie in well together and in the end will help support and answer my initial research question.
3. Before reading the article on schooling in Ontario, I didn’t realize starting a new school was so difficult. I could imagine finding teachers and other staff was tough but when it came to the parents and all of their demands, it added pressure to the school systems and their soon to be staff which was a shock to me because I thought the parents would have been thrilled about the educational system making an effort to educate children. It’s also shocking to read about the rules and regulations they had to come up with, I always knew they came from somewhere but I assumed they thought of them as something took place within the school. After reading each source, it opened my eyes to the many challenges the education system came across before it becomes what it is today. It also showed me that everything we had today has a history of challenges and difficulties they had to overcome before it could be the ideal system.
4. I didn’t originally have a point of view on this topic, I was just very excited to read the articles and learn about a new and exciting topic. However, after reading it made me realize that school was never necessarily easy for anyone, whether it was the students, staff/administration or parents. Since I didn’t have many questions before reading the articles, any that came across while I was reading were quickly answered later on.
5. Next time I will definitely pay closer attention to the dates we are focusing on in class. However, I was just confused on when Pre-confederation Canada was, but now that I know, it’s permanently drilled into my brain. I would have asked more questions about the topics and done it all on time like every other student so I could have had time to ask questions about the final research paper before the deadline happened.

Research Question

My research question is; how has the education system changed from the 19th century to now?

Bibliography

Beard, J.G and Barber, J.A Barber. *Public Schools, City of Toronto. Report of the Past History and Present Condition of the Common or Public Schools of the City of Toronto.* Toronto (Ont.). Board of School Trustees. 1859, Toronto: Lovell & Gibson.

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McDonald, Neil. *Egerton Ryerson and the School as an Agent of Political Socialization.* Schooling in Transition, University of Toronto Press, 2012.

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