

## Challenging the Power and Authority of the History Textbook?

# What's the **BIG** deal?

- Historians investigate problems about the past, make claims about what happened, and support their claims with evidence.
- The textbooks provide a narrative of the past, allowing students to read about a broad range of historical events, but have several limitations.
- Some of the limitations of history textbooks include that they: oversimplify complex events; offer limited evidence, historical arguments and perspectives; and tend to ignore motives.
- History textbooks often fail to show the investigative nature of history and tend to make historical outcomes seem 'inevitable'.
- When examining sources, it is important to source, contextualize, closely read, and corroborate accounts of the same event in order to get a more accurate picture of the past.