WRITING DEVELOPMENT

In her book, *The Writing Revolution* Judith Hochman tells us that students' problems with reading comprehension, as well with writing essays, occur because they have not been taught systematically to write … to which her book gives a step-by-step guide.

The Writing Development exercises here are adapted from her programme.

A Divided Society II – The 'Red Scare' and the 'Monkey Trial'

6. Questions I

History is all about answering questions. Every sentence in your textbooks comes from historians wanting to understand what was going on, asking questions of the sources, and – sometimes amidst a great deal of contention – coming up with suggested answers.

The basic question types are:

What? – eg in the OCR exam: "Describe one group which tried to oppose the Red Scare in America in the early 1920s."

Why? – eg in the AQA exam: "Why might the authors of Interpretations A and B have a different interpretation about immigrants in America in the 1920s?" or in the OCR exam: "Explain why there was a Red Scare in America in the early 1920s."

How? – eg in the AQA exam: "In what ways were the lives of immigrants affected by the Red Scare?"

Consequences? – eg in the Edexcel exam: "Explain two consequences of the Plains Indians' religion and values for their lifestyle."

Comparison? – eg in the AQA exam: "Which of the following was the greater problem faced by immigrants in 1920s America: discrimination in the workplace or the Palmer Raids?"

Discussion? -- eg in the OCR exam: "'A complete over-reaction to the actual danger'. How far do you agree with this view of the Red Scare in America in the early 1920s?"

Using only the information on the webpage:

AQA students: invent 2 questions for each of the following question-styles:

a. Describe two problems faced by _____.

b. In what ways were the lives of _____ affected by _____.

c. Which of the following was the more important reason for _____:
- _____
- _____.

OCR students: invent 2 questions for each of the following question-styles:

a. Describe _____.

b. Explain why _____?

c. How far do you agree with the view that _____?