

Lesson 1: Who Taught You What You Know?

The first step in thinking for yourself is noticing who did the teaching.

The Beginner's Investigation · Lesson 1 of 10

The Big Idea

You probably didn't choose your first history textbook. You didn't design your school's curriculum. You didn't write the tests. And you didn't choose the rules that decide which colleges and careers count as "elite."

So who did?

It Felt Neutral

Most of us experienced school as a simple path:

Learn → Work Hard → Get Good Grades → Get Opportunities → Succeed

That path is real for many people. But it was designed by someone. Every curriculum, test, and admissions rule is a set of choices made by people with their own goals and limits.

That does **not** mean your teachers were lying to you, or that school was a waste. It means school is a system — and systems can be studied.

The Question That Starts Everything

Who decides what gets taught, how history is described, what gets tested, and who gets access to the best opportunities?

Once you ask that, education becomes more than a classroom. It becomes something worth investigating.

Try It

Pick one thing you were taught in school that you've never questioned. Write down:

1. Who taught it to you?
2. Where did *they* learn it?
3. Have you ever seen the original evidence yourself?

Don't take our word for it. Investigate.