Peer Response: Historicizing a Community

PART I: Briefly discuss with your partner the goals of this project assignment. Describe how you went about doing the assignment and what you tried to do in your paper. Tell your partner what remaining concerns you have with this draft of the paper.

PART II: Read over the author’s paper once through quickly. What is your dominant impression of the paper? In what ways does it accomplish what the writer told you s/he set out to do?

What did your partner say most concerns her or him in this draft? What aspects will you look closely at to help your partner?
Part III: Reread the paper more carefully to respond to the following questions.

Be sure to give substantive feedback that your partner can use to revise the draft. (When you have finished, meet with the author to discuss the paper and your responses.)

1. What have you learned by reading this paper?

2. What subject position does the writer appear to hold in relation to the history s/he writes? How can you tell?
3. Who is the audience(s) the author appears to be targeting? (That is, who would benefit from reading this history?) How can you tell?

4. What is the purpose of this paper? How can you tell? (In what ways would it or would it not match the target audiences reasons for reading it?)

5. What did you expect to find in the paper that is not there? Conversely, what is there that you are surprised to find?
6. What part(s) would you like to learn more about? Should the author flesh these out more?

7. What suggestions do you have for the author based on the aspects s/he told you were parts s/he felt needed more work? Was the writer correct?

8. What other suggestions do you have for the author to revise the paper?

Part IV: Writers. Based on your conversation with your reading partner and on the responses written here, what do you plan to do next with the paper? How will
you address the suggestions? What else do you think you need to do? Make a
plan on a separate piece of paper. Turn in this sheet and your plan with your final
draft.