

CRITERIA OF SIGNIFICANCE

(Relating to events – can we apply the same to memorials?)

Rob Phillips - GREAT:

- * **G** roundbreaking
- * **R** emembered
- * **E** ffects that are far-reaching
- * **A** ffecting the future
- * **T** errifying

Phillips, R 'Historical Significance – The Forgotten Key Element'? Teaching History 106, Citizens & Communities Edition

Christine Counsell - 5 Rs:

- * **R** emarkable – at the time and/or since
- * **R** emembered - it was important at some stage in history within the collective memory of a group or groups
- * **R** esulted in change – consequences for the future
- * **R** esonant (ripples) - people like to make analogies with it; it is possible to connect with experiences, beliefs or situations across time & space
- * **R** evealing - of some other aspect of the past

Counsell, C. 'Looking though a Josephine-Butler-shaped window: focusing pupils' thinking on historical significance', in Teaching History 114, pp. 30 - 36

Partington's model:

1. **Importance** to people living at the time
2. **Profundity** how deeply people's lives were affected by it
3. **Quantity** how many lives were affected
4. **Durability** for how long people's lives were affected
5. **Relevance** the extent to which the event has contributed to an increased understanding of present life

Partington, G. (1980) *The idea of an historical education*, Slough, NFER: 112-116