

Book review essay plan – Nat Kane

I plan to review the book ‘Intelligent Town’ – An Urban History Of Swansea, 1780-1855’ Written by Louise Miskell. This book is a study that was published on behalf of the History and Law Committee of the Board of Celtic Studies and was printed by Cardiff University Of Wales Press (2006) to examine the ‘rise and fall’ of the city throughout that time period.

To do this review I have to finish reading the book, whilst doing this I would continue to make clear and concise notes, with questions I have about the information presented in the book. I would with no doubt create some preliminary opinions, though to ensure that my opinions are rooted in intelligent queries and evidence-based conclusions. I will be also seeking other scholarly opinions on the subject of Swansea’s urban history, these sources will be chosen based on the reliability of their expertise, or what kind of organization the information would be coming from. I will be looking at academic and government sources across Cymru, especially giving attention to those which are situated in Swansea itself. I hope to be able to find information that either backs up my preliminary opinions or educates me further to show me why these opinions could be misjudged.

Unfortunately, I am unable to visit the museums in Swansea, so I would be utilizing the best online resources available to me, the following organizations and educational institutes seem appropriate to approach as sources;

- Both Swansea University and the Glamorgan History Society are bound to also have sources on this time in Swansea’s history as they are the organizations and institutes that cover this area in Cymru
- The National Water Front Museum, Swansea, this Museum features the industrial development of Swansea, the industrial development would have a close relationship with the urban population of Swansea, and Swansea’s development, as well as those coming to settle here, so I would put this forward as a path to venture down when I am looking for information and sources.
- The University Of Wales, has a web review, or a summary of the contents of the book, which has some reviews attached to look further into.
- I will also search in the online library at this university for more information, sources, and possibly reviews on the book, or the area during this time period.

By then analyzing the secondary sources, I will be able to formulate what I want to base my review on, for example, am I looking for easement of reading? Am I looking for consistency in how the information is presented? Am I looking for accuracy in comparison to local lore and oral history? There are many things to consider when approaching the contents of the study, as well as my approach to presenting my opinion and how I base that opinion on realistic and factual historical knowledge. As someone who is native to Swansea, it is important that I analyze the information in this manner, this is to be fully impartial in my chosen words, and conscious of the impact those words could have must also be considered by myself.