

# TOPIC SELECTION

# HISTORY DAY

Selecting a History Day topic is a process of gradually narrowing down the area of history in which you are interested and focusing on a manageable subject.

Keep in mind the following when selecting a general topic and when narrowing your topic.

- The topic should be of interest to you.
- Make sure the topic fits the theme. (Consult with your teacher).
- The topic should be significant and important enough that everyone should know about it.
- The topic should be in-depth and narrow in scope. It is better to focus on one issue in detail than to cover many issues superficially.
- The topic should reflect the availability of primary and secondary resources. A local topic is often a good choice, since primary documents are more likely to be available in the community in which an event occurred or in which a person lived.

## INTEREST

To start out, you should think about the factors above which will determine the type of topic you can choose to research. Next, your area of interest, type of project chosen, class curriculum requirements, and the theme will narrow your choices automatically. Answer the following questions:

My personal general interests include: (circle 5 interest subjects)

Adventure Agriculture Architecture Arts Children Cities Conflicts Constitution Controversy	Culture Dance Ecology Economy Education Environment Exile Explorers Experimental	Famous People Film Food Gender Issues Geography Governments Human Interest Human Rights Indigenous people	Labor Issues Literature Migration Music Nature Political Issues Oral History Religion Science	Social Groups Social Issues Sports Travel Technology Theatre War & peace Womens' Issue
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Historical Paper	Exhibit (Display)	Documentary	Performance	Website
The traditional form for presenting historical research and interpretation.	A visual representation of a topic. Photographic images, quotes, & objects should creatively to enhance the message.	A use of images such as video, photos, interviews, and voice-overs to present a topic.	A dramatic portrayal of a topic & its significance in history. It should be original & creative, not an oral report.	A technological visual representation of a topic focusing on the use of various digital medias.

1. I am interested in completing a \_\_\_\_\_ project during 2<sup>nd</sup> semester because \_\_\_\_\_.
2. I am currently enrolled in the Social Studies course \_\_\_\_\_.  
The courses time period begins \_\_\_\_\_ and ends \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Historical events or periods of most interest me in my current social studies class include? Why? (List 3)
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_

## THEME

You then focus on the annual theme to see if there are subject areas that fit their ideas.

This year's History Day Theme is: \_\_\_\_\_

Find and write the definition of each word of the theme:

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## TOPIC

Next make a list of topics you are interested in which relate to the theme.

Topic ideas of interest me include: (List 4 topics of personal interest)

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My preliminary topic idea is: \_\_\_\_\_

A textbook description of the topic states: \_\_\_\_\_

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The topic is related to (the theme) \_\_\_\_\_ because

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## ISSUE

Take another step in the narrowing process by selecting a specific issue within the topic.

The key person, event, or movement I plan to focus on is \_\_\_\_\_

because \_\_\_\_\_

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Your topic selection is:

**Interest:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Content:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Topic:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Issue:** \_\_\_\_\_