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)

|-----------|-------------|---------------|-----|----------|--------|-----------|-------------|-------------|---------|-------|---------|---------|-----------|-------------|-------|-----------|--------------|-------------|------|-------|--------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|------------|----------------|-----------|----------|---------|--------|---------|----------------|-----------|----------|---------|-------------|--------------|--------|-------|---------------|-----------|----------|---------|--------|---------|----------------|-----------|----------|---------|-------------|--------------|--------|

1. I am interested in completing a ____________________________ project during 2nd 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:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

### 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)

_________________________________________        ________________________________________

_________________________________________        _____________________

My preliminary topic idea is: ________________________________

A textbook description of the topic states:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

The topic is related to (the theme) ________________________________ because

________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________

### 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 ________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Your topic selection is:

**Interest:** ________________________________

**Content:** ________________________________

**Topic:** ________________________________

**Issue:** ________________________________