

# HISTORY DAY - TOPIC SELECTION

Selecting a History Day topic means narrowing down your area of historical interest and focusing on a specific subject that you can manage.

Things to remember about selecting a general topic and when narrowing your topic:

- You should be interested in the subject.
- Make sure the topic fits the theme; consult your teacher.
- A general topic is significant and important enough that everyone knows about it.
- The scope of the topic should be deep and narrow. It is better to focus on one issue in detail than to cover many issues superficially.
- There should be a good range of primary and secondary resources about the topic. A local topic is often a good choice because primary documents are probably in the community where an event occurred or where a person lived.

---

## Interest

Think about the points above. They will guide you toward topics to research. Answer the following questions to help you find your area of interest, the type of project you want to do, class curriculum requirements, and the History Day theme.

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

Adventure	Culture	Famous People	Indigenous People	Social Groups
Agriculture	Dance	Film	Labor Issues	Social Issues
Architecture	Ecology	Food	Literature	Sports
Arts	Economy	Gender Issues	Music	Travel
Children	Education	Geography	Nature	Technology
Cities	Environment	Governments	Political Issues	Theatre
Conflicts	Exile	Human Interest	Oral History	War and Peace
Constitution	Explorers	Human Rights	Religion	Women's Issue
Controversy	Experimental Living	Immigration	Science	

Historical Paper	Exhibit (Display)	Documentary	Performance	Website
This is the traditional form for presenting historical research and interpretation on paper, with sources.	This is a visual representation of a topic. Artifacts like photographic images, charts/graphs, quotes, and objects can illustrate the message.	Audio-visually like videos, photos, music, interviews, slides and voice-overs explain a topic.	This is a dramatic portrayal of a topic and its significance. It should be original and creative, and may include costumes and/or small props.	This is a technological visual representation of a topic, using various digital media on an electronic device.

1. I am interested in doing a(n) ..... project during the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester.

I am interested in this project because .....

2. I am taking the Social Studies course .....

The course time period is from ..... to ....., ..... days a week.

3. I am interested in these historical events or periods from my current social studies class:  
(List 3 and briefly tell why you chose each one)


---

### Content and theme

**Focus on the annual History Day theme to see if there are content areas that fit your interests.**

4. This year's History Day Theme is: .....

5. The theme means:

--

---

**Topic**

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

6. My four topics of interest are:


7. My preliminary topic idea is:

--

8. A textbook description of the topic (include the name of the textbook):

--

9. The topic is related to (the HD theme) because

--

---

**Issue**

**Select a specific issue within the topic.**

10. The key person, event, or movement I plan to focus on is .....

because .....

My topic selection is:

**Interest:** .....

**Content:** .....

**Topic:** .....

**Issue:** .....