

How did you choose your topic and how does it relate to the annual theme?

I chose newspapers and colonial protest in America as my topic for this year's NHD because I wanted to pick something that I was familiar with but could still serve as a learning experience for me and seeing as how the American Revolution was one of the first topics I learned in freshman year I thought it'd be interesting that for my last NHD project I could elaborate on my prior knowledge while also refreshing my memory on the causes leading to the American Revolution. This topic relates to the annual theme "communication in history" because newspapers were and still are known as a means of sharing news with the public to keep people informed on recent events.

How did you conduct your research?

I conducted my research by first searching the internet for primary source newspapers about the Stamp Act, Townshend Acts, and the Intolerable Acts to see if colonists at the time were openly acting hateful towards these taxes. As I expected, there were colonists who used the newspaper as an outlet to promote protests and share how they felt about the taxes. On a side note, I found it difficult to read the newspapers at first because I would confuse the letter "s" with the letter "f" since the letter "s" back then looked different from what I was familiar with. Afterward, I started looking into secondary sources for information on the taxes, and those helped me remember what the acts were taxing and what events transpired as a result of the colonists protesting.

How did you create your project?

With the research portion of my NHD project out of the way, I started typing out my paper. I chose to write a paper this year because in past years I would do an exhibit board, but due to the pandemic, a physical exhibit board wasn't an option so in a way the pandemic pushed me to try a different format. I also chose to write a paper because out of the other options I found this the least complicated to execute.

What is your historical argument?

My historical argument is that newspapers played an influential role in helping the colonists establish their views on Great Britain after the numerous trade and import acts they passed, making colonial life difficult.

In what ways is your topic significant in history?

My topic is significant in history because if the American colonists had stayed quiet about the taxes Great Britain enacted, the American Revolution may not have happened meaning the colonies would've stayed under Great Britain's rule. Who knows maybe the protests along with the American Revolution helped America become independent sooner. In addition, because colonists protested important events such as the Boston Massacre and the Boston Tea Party happened.