

To determine what my topic would be, I looked at historical events that greatly impacted Chicago. The Chicago Fire and the relief effort after it held significant influence in the history of Chicago. The fire changed building codes, how different materials were used to construct buildings and shelters, and changed how disaster relief can be used or administered. My project relates to the annual theme as it shows diplomatic action between government and individual organizations such as the Chicago Relief and Aid Society. Debates between the Chicago Relief and Aid Society's efforts and the conflicts the organization made.

To conduct my research, I used Google and Google Scholar to find sources that explained how the Chicago Fire directly affected Chicago and its citizens. There were also multiple reports that were made about the event and the relief efforts after it. The reports contained credible primary and secondary sources which I also used. The sources included newspapers, books, and periodicals. I went to my local library and used Google Books as well which helped increase the number of primary sources I had; which contributed a great portion to my overall research.

I created my project by using Google Docs as the main word processor for my paper. I made sure to use complete sentences and correct grammar. Footnotes were used to correctly cite sources and to identify which sources were used. I made sure I had an introductory page where I would state how the fire directly impacted Chicago and then a multitude of body paragraphs. My conclusion was made with careful intention to make sure it had all the information and main ideas needed to end a paper concisely and neatly. I included page numbers in MLA format to correctly organize my paragraphs and sentences.

My historical argument shows how after the Chicago Fire, the Chicago Relief and Aid Society had a debatable impact on the reconstruction and repair of the city, despite what some call their strict and unfair policies; the organization achieved great diplomatic results by providing food and clothing to displaced residents, offering help in finding employment, and relocating displaced Chicagoans.

My topic is significant to history because it shaped the reconstruction of Chicago's business district, brought profit back to Chicago after a devastating disaster, and how buildings were built with strict codes to make sure that another disaster would happen again. It was one of the most devastating catastrophes in the Midwest. My topic shows how a collective effort can make anything possible.