



Turning Points in History: People, Places, Ideas National History Day 2023-2024 English IH, English II, English IIH

History Day is a national competition that offers you the opportunity to discover the excitement of doing real historical research and developing a creative presentation. In addition, it encourages you to develop your research, analysis, and communication skills - all important skills for a historian. For those who win at the school, county, and state level, there are awards, scholarships, and other forms of recognition. Advancement and placing in this competition is a meaningful addition to a college resume and application.

For more information: www.nhd.org For questions, please email Dr. Hedgcock, shedgcock@sarasotachristian.org



WHAT IS NATIONAL HISTORY DAY?

National History Day (or NHD) is more than just a class project. It's your chance to be a historian. You will pick your own topic connected to the annual theme, find primary and secondary sources, and make your own argument about why your topic is significant in history. You will share your story through a format you enjoy: a paper, web site, exhibit, performance, or documentary.

The National History Day Process

The process of creating a National History Day project is probably similar to other research projects that you've created, but on a bigger scale. This handbook is designed to walk you through the important steps you'll take as you research, analyze, and present your historical conclusions. Everyone's journey will be a little bit different, but here are a few important steps that everyone will take along the way:



The Idea: A great research project begins with a great topic idea. Take your first step in the right direction by finding a topic that fits the theme, has plenty of sources, and is interesting to you.



Research: Research is the most important part of creating a project. Historians depend on research the same way that detectives need clues. This is the evidence you'll need to prove your "case."



Analysis: Once you've found information about your topic, you need to read it carefully and figure out what it's trying to tell you. Develop your own ideas and thesis about the significance of your topic.



Presentation: You've done all this hard work, now it's time to share it with others. What is the best way to share your argument and research? What techniques should you use to communicate it well?

Theme:

Each year, National History Day has a new theme for students to explore. No matter where students live or what grade they're in, all National History Day projects will be united under this broad idea.

This next year the theme is "Turning Points in History: People, Places, Ideas."

Step One: Choose a Topic

- ❖ The key to an effective National History Day entry is the combination of a good topic and good sources. Here are some questions to think about when you select a topic to research: Does the topic fit the theme for this year?
- ❖ Does the topic truly interest you? (Remember you will spend a lot of time researching this topic, so you might want to make a list of things you like or want to know more about.)
- ❖ Can you find enough sources to document the topic? Why is this topic important in history? (What do you want people to learn from your presentation?)

Link to Topic Ideas:

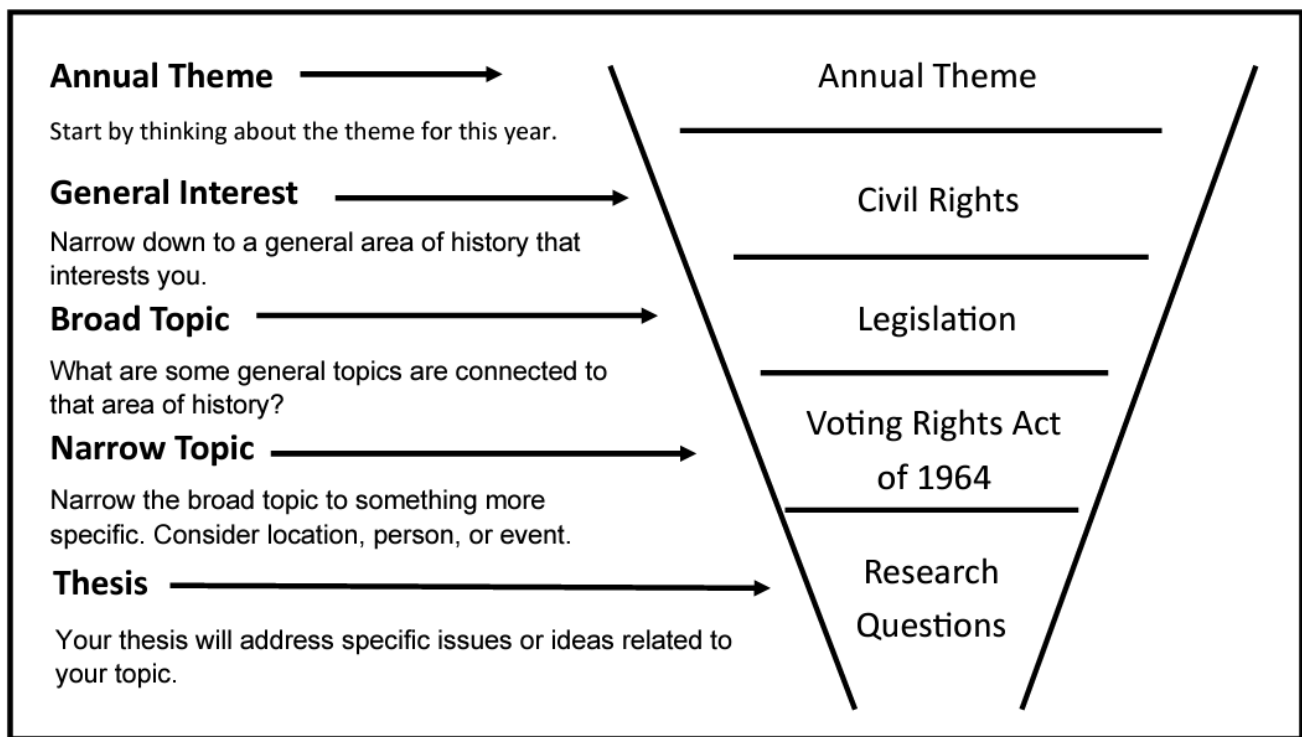
Use this list to begin thinking about ideas. The topic areas may give you related ideas. Do NOT feel restricted by these suggestions. This list is just to get your imagination going over topics and ideas that interest you. Make sure you discuss this with your family. There may be some interesting historical events in your own heritage that may be significant enough to research!

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1RvJSZDGJKwIwdhg9Xm1HWMrPWbiib6EnQaIC1eTyd_o/edit?usp=sharing

Narrowing your Topic

A good way to choose a topic is to start with a general area of history you find interesting. This might be information you read about in your textbook, something you saw in a TV program or movie, or something related to family or community history. Once you define your interest, the next step is to narrow your general ideas into a focused topic. Think about the theme and your general interests as a big funnel, where you take something large and narrow it down into something smaller.

Example:



_____ Brainstorm a list of potential topics.

_____ Choose one you are interested in and use the inspiration "Test Your Topic" to see if it works. https://youtu.be/keLRV9dK_IE

The video is on a different topic, but the questions and demonstration will help you decide if your topic will work.

_____ Complete the "Initial Research" worksheet to see if the topic is doable.

Use the worksheet on the next page to identify elements of your topic. We will spend more time in class with this, but if you can research over the summer, visit some interesting places associated with your topic, or even interview someone directly or indirectly involved in the topic, you will be in a better position to accomplish your goal of an award winning project!

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions or ideas.
Shedgcock@sarasotachristian.org

RESEARCH STRATEGY WORKSHEET

Use this worksheet to develop ideas on the types and location of sources you can use in your research. These ideas will be helpful when you discuss your research with a reference librarian.

Topic: _____

What are some key words, dates, or people related to your topic that will help you search for information? (Remember to check spelling!)

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

What are related search terms you can use to find information? (Related words, topics, keywords, or synonyms)

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

What types of primary sources might exist for your topic?

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

What materials will you look at to begin your research?

What libraries or research centers do you think will have information on your topic?

Make a list of people you could interview or write to learn more about your topic. Make a note after each name if they would be a primary or secondary source.

Step Two: Get Sources: Use your Noodletools Account to track your sources. If you have a Noodletools account, create a new project. If you need an account, please email shedgcock@sarasotachristian.org.

_____ Visit a library; find and check out at least five kinds of sources:

*Primary sources include diaries, autobiographies, government records, photographs, interviews with participants, manuscripts, newspapers from the time, letters, music, and historic objects. These are all materials that were written or produced in the time you are studying or eyewitness accounts of events or later recollections by participants in historic events.

*Secondary sources are published books or articles by an author who makes a personal interpretation of an event but was not an eyewitness. These include biographies, encyclopedias, history textbooks, interviews with scholars, books and articles about the topic, and media documentaries.

_____ Determine the method for how you will keep your research organized. Write down the names of your resources. Keep track of the following information for each source: name of author(s), title, place of publishing, publisher, and year of publication. There should then be a summary of what the book is about and the pages that will be used. Keep all this information in your annotated bibliography page in a word document

Step Three - Take Notes

_____ Write down (in your own words) information from your sources. Log the name of the source and the page number(s) along with a brief phrase describing what information you want to know. If you copy the author's words exactly, be sure to put quotation marks around them. Use notecards in Noodletools!

Questions?

For all questions grades 9-10, please contact Dr. Susan Hedgcock
shedgcock@sarasotachristian.org