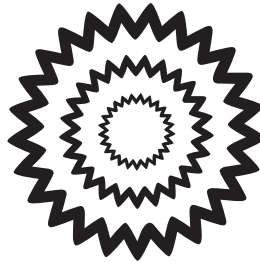


Evaluating a Topic & Historical Question



It's History

The event, person, etc., is rooted at least 25 years ago, but deeper into the past is even better. You should be able to show change and continuity over time—what influence did the person/historical event effect?

It's Local

Some history topics have made an impact on our nation's story; others reflect, or are "case studies" (examples) of a larger theme. An ideal topic is connected to local people, events or places.

It's Significant

The question asks about the impact on the social, political, economic factors that constitute society. It connects to bigger themes in history.

It's NHD-Eligible

The annual National History Day theme can be wholly integrated into the project.

It's Got Sources

Primary sources (for evidence) and secondary sources (for others' interpretations) are available at libraries, institutions and the internet. Consider oral histories for topics with a local connection.

It Demands Interpretation

There's a "big idea" that you want to communicate—not just facts. History Day projects answer questions rooted in "how" and "why" something has happened. Interpretation means making an argument/thesis statement based on evidence.

It's Got "Soul"

A good project takes months to complete, so it should be intriguing and engaging—even better, it should be a historical topic about something that matters to *you*.