

# National History Day 2022

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY 2022

## Debate & Diplomacy in History

SUCCESSES, FAILURES,  
CONSEQUENCES

**Mark Adams, Education Director  
Truman Presidential Library and Museum**

# CATEGORIES AND JUDGES CRITERIA

Enter either as an individual or as a group

- Exhibits
- Documentaries
- Websites
- Performances
- Papers

- 1. 20% Quality of Presentation**
- 2. 80% Historical Quality**

## 1. 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.

## 2. 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."



## Four Steps to create a History Day project

### 3. Analysis:

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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.

### 4. 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?



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SUCCESSES, FAILURES,  
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**Topics must connect to the annual theme**

**Think about it: How does the theme connect to the argument that you are making about your topic?**

**What do we mean by Debate?**

**What do we mean by Diplomacy?**

**WHAT DO THE WORDS**  
**DEBATE AND**  
**DIPLOMACY MEAN?**



## DEBATE AND DIPLOMACY

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Debate is a discussion between people or groups in which they express different opinions about something.

Diplomacy is the work of maintaining good relationships between the governments of different countries or people through discussion and compromise.

# DEBATE AND DIPLOMACY

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**Debate involves an argument, disagreement, or discussion between two or more sides**

**Diplomacy is how government or groups of people work together to maintain relationships and solve problems**

**What were the different sides?  
How did they communicate their opinions?**

**How did the different sides work together?**

**Were all groups invited to the table?**



# SUCCESSSES, FAILURES, CONSEQUENCES

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**Did they reach a solution or fail?**

**Showing change – why is it important?**

**What changed in the short and long term?**

**Did things change politically, economically, socially, culturally?**

**What positive and negative changes took place?**

**Does the debate continue today?**

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**Topic needs to be more than 20 years old**

**Choose a topic that interests you**

**Use both words in your thesis statement**

**Will have opposite viewpoints – must include both viewpoints**



# IN HISTORY

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How did the events leave a lasting mark on history?



What changed?



Could be a local or regional topic



You need to look at the significance of your topic over time



Short term and long term legacy



Topics should **NOT** be current events. Choose an event that took place at least 20 years ago

**Think about the relationship  
between the topic and the events  
that came before and after it:**

**Why did the issue exist? (Before)**

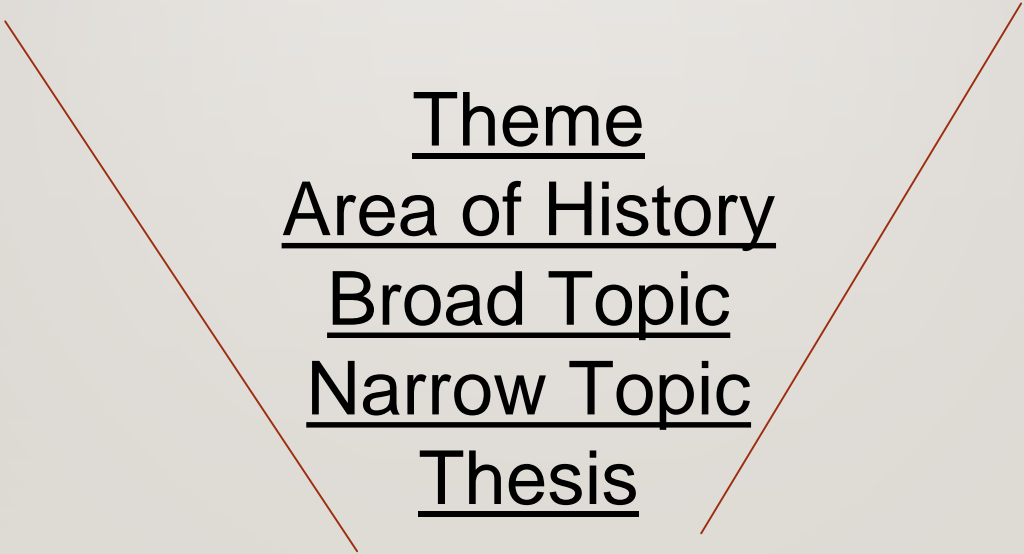
**What happened? (During)**

**What impact did it have? (After)**

**What was its significance? (Conclusion)**

# Take a big idea and narrow to a manageable size for NHD

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Theme  
Area of History  
Broad Topic  
Narrow Topic  
Thesis



## 10 QUESTIONS

1. WHAT IS THE DEBATE (AND/OR DIPLOMACY) FOCUSED ON?

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2. WHAT SPECIFIC EVENT ARE YOU FOCUSING ON?

3. WHAT WAS THE REASON FOR DEBATE?

4. WHAT WAS THE REASON FOR THE DIPLOMACY?

5. WHAT WERE THE DIFFERENT POINTS OF VIEW?



6. WHAT WAS GOING ON AT THE TIME TO INFLUENCE EVENTS?

7. WHAT WERE THE ACTIONS TAKEN?

8. DESCRIBE WHAT HAPPENED

9. WHAT CHANGED – SHORT/LONG TERM?

10. WHAT WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT IMPACT?

# CATEGORIES

- Exhibits
- Websites
- Performances
- Papers
- Documentaries

## Divisions

- 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade
- 9<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grade



WHERE  
CAN I  
FIND  
MORE  
IDEAS?

<https://www.nhd.org/debate-diplomacy-history>

Talk to your parents, teachers, friends

Pick an area of history that interests you  
and explore the library

*Email: mark.adams@nara.gov*