Do You Have a Good Topic?

1. Does your topic fit the theme of History Day?
   < Not only does it fit within the theme, but will you be able to explain its tie within your project?
   < If you were asked by a judge to explain the correlation, would you be able to do so?

2. Can you analyze your topic?
   < You need a topic that helped shape history.
   < Judges will want you to tell them how and why your topic shaped history.
   < Can you determine historical context, alternate perspectives, significance and impact?

3. Is your topic too small?
   < This will be based on the number of available resources.

4. Is your topic too large?
   < If your topic is too large, there are too many resources to read.
   < You would spend all your time summarizing the event, rather than analyzing it, and drawing conclusions.

5. Are there primary source available for your topic?
   < Better History Day projects use an abundance of primary sources.
   < Be sure that you can locate some.

6. If you are creating an exhibit, documentary or web site, will you be able to find enough photographs, images, video footage?
   < If your topic takes place before the mid-1800's, this might be difficult.

7. Is your topic unique?
   < The more unique your topic, the more likely it is to do well at History Day.
   < A unique project, well-done, helps you look original and interesting from the start.

8. Will you enjoy researching and learning about this topic?
   < History should be fun to learn. Choose a topic that makes YOU want to learn more. You will become an expert on your topic and teach lots of people something they never knew before.

9. Regarding theme: YOU have the burden of proof!
   < Make sure you can show HOW your topic CHANGED history!!