



NHD: Choosing a Topic

A. Topic Selection

1. Historical sub-fields - History is a huge and broad umbrella that includes lots of sub-branches of history. Look at the list below and choose five to cross out (that you have NO interest in) and five to circle (that you have a high interest in).

political history	social history	military history	economic history
religious history	cultural history	diplomatic history	environmental history
women's history	public history	history of government	demographic history
rural history	family history	ethnic history	labor history
urban history	history of education	history of the common man	intellectual history

2. Time Periods / Geographic Regions - the second thing that you have to do is to narrow down some geographic locations. Based on that, choose one or two that you'd like to pursue.

North America	Central America	Caribbean	South America
Pre-Columbian	Pre-Columbian	Pre-Columbian	Pre-Columbian
Exploration and Settlement	Exploration and Settlement	Exploration and Settlement	Exploration and Settlement
Founding / pre-civil war	Independence movements	Independence movements	Independence movements
Post-Civil War	Twentieth century	Twentieth century	Twentieth century
Europe	Africa	Asia	Pacific Rim
Romans, Dark/Middle Ages	Pre-imperialism	Pre-imperialism	Pre-imperialism
Early Modern	Imperialism	Imperialism	Imperialism
Imperialism	Post-imperialism	Post-imperialism	Post-imperialism
Twentieth century	Modern Africa	Modern Asia	Modern Oceania

3. Are you thinking of working in a group? Glance at the paper of the members of your group - do you agree more than you disagree?

B. Web Searching – Choose three of the links below to explore.

Our Documents - <http://www.ourdocuments.gov/index.php?flash=true&>

Look at the 100 most important documents in US history.

Choose three that you think are interesting and note WHY you are interested in these documents

Document...	This is interesting because....

Library of Congress - <http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/primarysourcesets/>

→ Click on the link above and choose two set of primary sources

Primary Source Set...	This caught my attention...

National Historic Landmarks - <http://www.nps.gov/nhl/>

→ Sometimes a place can inspire an idea....the National Parks Service protects historic places across the United States

Ideas.....

PBS History - <http://www.pbs.org/topics/history/>

On the menu bar across the top, choose the “topics” and choose some categories that interest you. Note your pathways and ideas in the boxes below.

Ideas.....

Library of Congress Timeline –

<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/presentationsandactivities/presentations/timeline/index.html>

→ If you like to look at history chronologically.....try this

Ideas....

C. If you have extra time, consider some of these....

<i>If you're interested in....</i>	<i>Try....</i>
Exploration in North and South America...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://www.americanjourneys.org/
Colonial History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://www.history.org/history/teaching/index.cfm • http://www.dohistory.org/home.html
Social History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://www.ashp.cuny.edu/
Politics and government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://www.annenbergclassroom.org/
Women's History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://www.womeninworldhistory.com/thematic-units.html
A general overview of US History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://historymatters.gmu.edu/ • http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/ • http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/index.cfm • https://www.gilderlehrman.org/ • http://nhd.org/USHistoryPrimarySources.htm
World History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://www.bne.es/es/Colecciones/ • http://eudocs.lib.byu.edu/index.php/Main_Page • http://nhd.org/WorldHistoryPrimarySources.htm
Puerto Rican/Latino History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://centropr.hunter.cuny.edu/ • http://www.preb.com/geneal2/adasi.htm • http://www.loc.gov/rr/hispanic/

NHD Helpful Web Resources:

→ NHD Website: Find student project examples from past years, the annual theme sheet, tips for creating different types of entries, the contest rule book and more!

<http://www.nhd.org>

→ Need research tips from a master NHD teacher?

<http://www.youtube.com/embed/usfIFqsHoVk>

→ Need help writing a thesis statement from a master NHD teacher?

<http://www.youtube.com/embed/5728zt9ZYnQ>