

Do You Have a Good Topic?

1. Does your topic fit the theme of History Day?

- ☐ Can you easily explain how your topic connects to this year's theme?
- ☐ If you can't explain it now, this is probably not a good topic for you!

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?
- ☐ Make sure you can show HOW your topic CHANGED history!

3. Is your topic the right size?

- ☐ If your topic is too small, there will be too few available resources.
- ☐ If your topic is too large, there are too many resources to read and you would spend all your time summarizing the event, rather than analyzing it, and drawing conclusions.
- ☐ You can adjust your topic by expanding your topic or narrowing it down.

4. Are there primary source available for your topic?

- ☐ Good History Day projects use an abundance of primary sources.
- ☐ Be sure that you can locate some.

5. If you are creating an exhibit, documentary or web site, will you be able to find enough photographs, images, or video footage?

- ☐ If you are creating an exhibit, website, or documentary, make sure you select a topic that you can represent with images.

7. Is your topic unique?

- ☐ It is more rewarding to research a unique topic because you can come up with your own conclusions and ideas about the topic without lots of commentary from historians who have gone before you.
- ☐ Judges love to learn about a new topic or a unique topic and you will stand out at the contests

8. Will you enjoy researching and learning about this topic?

- ☐ Do you care about your topic? Your NHD topic should be fun and rewarding for you. You will spend a lot of time with your topic, so pick something that matters to you!