



Name _____

NHD Research Plan:
Where and How to Find the Required Sources

Topic: (Write or paste your topic here.)

Keywords: (List all words that might help in your searches.)

Public Library (Name the sources you plan to investigate.)

Virtual Library - Online Encyclopedias and Other Secondary Sources

Virtual Library - Primary Sources:

Catalog - Books to reserve:

LinksPlus - Books to request from other libraries (if needed):

Landmarks (Name the places that might have good websites or experts to interview.)

National Parks & Monuments:

State Parks:

Famous Historical Places:

Regional Sources (Name the resources near the places where your person was active.)

Public Libraries in Major Cities:

Local Historical Societies and Museums:

State Archives:

Universities (Name schools near landmarks or where authors of secondary sources teach or have published.)

Library of Congress

(Go to Library of Congress American Memory or use Google like this: site:loc.gov topic)

Many Images Available?

Articles?

National Archives (Especially good for famous documents)

Articles?

Documents?

Chronicling America (Search American newspapers between 1836-1922.)

Many Articles?

Google Scholar (Find articles and sometimes even digitized books.)

Can I do this topic? Yes No **Or** is there another topic possible? _____



National History Day

Initial Research: Chasing the Secondary Sources

	First Choosing and Narrowing a Topic	Second Understanding the Story: Gathering Information	Third Interviews and Analysis
Research Description	<p>In the beginning of an NHD project, you are trying to find out how your topic fits within the theme. You'll need to know what happened and when, who the key people are, etc. At this stage of your research, you will probably be narrowing your topic and determining the exact focus of your research.</p>	<p>Once you have a grasp on the facts of your topic, you are ready to ask the how, why and what questions that will help you to understand both the context and the turning point in history you are studying.</p>	<p>The advanced stage of secondary research occurs when you know enough about your topic to research multiple perspectives, to search out debates over the meaning of your topic, and to trace the significance of your topic in history.</p>
Types of sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Online tertiary sources ▪ Textbooks (tertiary sources are never cited in an NHD bibliography) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Secondary books by historians ▪ Magazines and Newspapers ▪ Biographies ▪ Documentaries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Scholarly articles ▪ Interviews with historians and experts
Questions to ask	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What happened? ▪ When? ▪ Who were the key people involved? ▪ What else was happening in history at the same time? ▪ What are the keywords that will lead you to other sources? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Why did these events happen? ▪ What are the causes and effects? ▪ What were the motivations and concerns of the people involved? ▪ How does this topic fit within the big historical picture? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What key questions do historians have about this topic? ▪ What do you think matters about this topic? ▪ What argument are you going to present about its significance in history? ▪ What core issues and themes do you still need to research? ▪ What is the long-term historical significance of your topic?

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Advanced Research: Primary Sources and Historical POV



	First Identifying Primary Sources	Second Thinking Like a Historian	Third Historical Significance
Research Description	<p>Analyzing primary sources will help you to draw your own conclusions about the significance of your topic and its connection to the theme.</p>	<p>Historians interpret the past by looking at events and turning points through historic lenses. They use these lenses to better understand the way turning points affected people in different ways.</p>	<p>A thorough understanding of historical context, turning point, historical debates, primary sources, and historic lenses will enable you to show your topic's significance in history. You will argue this significance with a thesis statement.</p>
Types of sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Letters, Diaries, Telegraph Messages ▪ Government Documents and Legal Cases ▪ Photos, Moving Footage, Newsreels, Speeches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Documents that illustrate cultural impact, economic impact, religious impact, political impact, social impact 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Legal cases that use your topic as a reference. ▪ New laws that can be traced back to your topic ▪ A continuing debate that is based on your topic ▪ Foreign or domestic policy that changed because of your topic
Questions to ask	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Who is the author? ▪ What is their point of view? ▪ How is this person involved? ▪ Does the information conflict with or agree with the secondary sources? ▪ What other information do you need to answer your questions? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How did your topic influence society as a whole? ▪ Were any members of society impacted more or less than others? ▪ What was gained or lost because of your topic? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What are the immediate and long-term impacts of your topic? ▪ How does this significance continue to matter today? ▪ What argument can you make that connects the historical significance to the theme? ▪ What is the "so what" that you want your audience to know about your conclusions? ▪ Why does this matter?



Bibliography Notes

Author(s)	
Title	
Place of Publication	
Publisher	
Copyright Date	
What did you learn from this Resource?	

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Bibliography Notes - Websites

Website URL	
Name of Institution/Organization Affiliate with site. (sometimes this can be found in the copyright statements)	
Date of posting/revision	
Date you visited site	
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