

HISTORY HAPPENS

THE MOST IMPORTANT QUESTIONS TO ANSWER

What
caused it
to exist?

What
caused it
to be
achieved?

What did
the new
frontier
cause?

Other Questions to answer:

1. Time
2. Place
3. Context
 - a. Religious
 - b. Societal
 - c. Economical
 - d. Political
 - e. Geographical
4. Cause and effect
5. Change over time
6. Impact
7. Significance
8. Opposition
9. Multiple perspectives
10. IN HISTORY
11. What contributed to the need to cross that frontier
12. What did the frontier (or people who made it) hope to accomplish
13. Consequences of the frontier
14. How long did the frontier last or the removal of the frontier

The Perfect Topic

The Unexpected:

- Behind the scenes or the backstory
 - Marian Anderson led to MLK Jr’s “I Have a Dream” speech at the Mall
- The mentor of the main character
 - Daisy Bates and the Little Rock Nine
- Failed invention
 - From Dragon Fly to Pacemaker
- Origin of the tradition
 - Pagan traditions brought into the Catholic Church
- Unknown/Forgotten hero
 - Vasyli Arkhipov and the Cuban Missile Crisis



Just the Right Size:

<i>Too Big</i>	<i>Better</i>	<i>Just Right</i>
White House	White House During War of 1812	Burning of the White House During the War of 1812
WWII	Americans in WWII	Battle of Cantigny
CIA	OSS during D-Day	Virginia Hall
Progressive Era	Muckrakers	Ida Tarbell and Standard Oil
George Washington	George Washington’s Presidency	George Washington Stepping Down from President

Research: Where to Begin

Start with the centerpiece source:

Pay attention to the sources used to create that centerpiece!

A secondary source is best way to begin research. It will tell the story on a broader canvas and offer historical context to investigate.

As you find primary sources, you will know how it connects to your topic...because your centerpiece secondary source told you so!

Where to Look

As you read or watch your centerpiece source, write down sources that are footnoted, or referenced in the bibliography or credits.

No matter what source you are going through, keep a list of “things to look for” that are brought up in that source.

1. References at the bottom of Wiki
2. Presidential Libraries
3. www.Whitehousehistory.org
4. www.docsteach.org
 - a. Database of sources relating to different topics and eras put together by teachers.
 - b. www.docsteach.org/topics/nhd - gives contextual info of documents and transcripts!
5. www.worldcat.org
 - a. The largest library catalogue. What is the nearest library with that source you'd like to get your hands on.
6. <https://www.loc.gov/wdl/> - world digital library has info re 200 countries
7. www.archives.gov/locations
 - a. If you go to an archive location, make an appointment and request “stacks” to be pulled.
8. <https://www.govtrack.us/>
 - a. Look to see how politicians voted on an issue. This is a great place to find opposition.
9. <http://www.archives.gov/>
10. <http://www.archives.gov/education/history-day>
11. <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>
 - a. American newspapers from 1789-1963
12. <https://www.abmc.gov/>

- a. American Battle Monuments Commission
13. Museum sites There is a museum for everything!
 - a. Click on “education” or “research”
 - b. Check out virtual exhibits
14. Visit museums
 - a. ABSOLUTELY Let them know before you arrive. You may be able to schedule an interview or it’s possible the archive department can prepare anything that may be useful stored in the archives.
15. Interview...but who to consider?
 - a. Archivists at museums
 - b. Experts in the field
 - c. Family members
 - d. Opposing perspectives
 - e. Authors of secondary sources
16. Plan a 4-hour visit at UWF!
 - a. Let them know you are coming.
 - b. Search the computer for at least one great source. There will be tons of other great sources on the shelf surrounding that one source!
17. PBS documentaries
18. <https://www.nhd.org/student-resources>
 - a. Helpful Research Links
19. www.history.gov -researchers share info here; You can chat w experts on threads.
20. “Like” related organizations on Facebook
21. “Louisiana Slave Database and Louisiana Free Database 1719-1820.”
www.ibiblio.org/laslave.
22. “Smithsonian Learning Lab” Smithsonian’s collection specifically for NHD research <https://learninglab.si.edu/news/national-history-day-digital-resources-frontiers-in-history>

Balanced Research

Balanced Research

1. Good mix of **primary and secondary** sources
2. Good mix of **types of sources** (books, periodicals/newspapers/magazines, videos, photos, government documents, etc.)
3. Opposing **perspectives** and the impact and motivations from each side of the story (could be two sides, could be three...)

Primary		Secondary	
Created at the time of the event First-hand information and original data		Summary or collection of existing data One step removed from the original event Will have a full citation of the original source	
Interviews Diaries Letters Journals Speeches Autobiographies Articles with new findings Government docs Oral history	Public Records Art Maps Photographs Films Music Artifacts Buildings Furniture Clothing	Textbook Review Articles Thesis Papers Biographies Historical films Retold stories Edited Compiled later	Articles about the past Edited music Remade music Reprinted art Interpreted info Shortened Lengthened

Research Hit List: If you target then fill out every one of these blanks, you will have 40+ sources already and guaranteed BALANCED research.

1. Wiki sources from the bottom of a Wikipedia topic description

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____

2. Newspapers (consider US and international)

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____

3. Videos

- a. Oral history _____
- b. Documentary _____
- c. News Broadcast _____
- d. Interview _____

4. Journal/Memoire/Diary/Letter

- a. Main Character _____
- b. Secondary Character _____
- c. Opposition _____

5. Government document

a. National Archives _____

b. International Archives _____

c. Library of Congress _____

6. Presidential Library

a. _____

b. _____

7. Museum

a. Display _____

b. Archives/Education section _____

8. Interview

a. Historian _____

b. Museum Educator _____

c. Direct (Primary) Character _____

d. Family Member _____

e. Someone Affected _____

9. Secondary Books by Experts

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

d. _____

10. Resources discovered in the bibliography of secondary books

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____

11. Photographs

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____

12. Maps

- a. _____
- b. _____

13. Historical Context

- a. Political _____
- b. Religious _____
- c. Social challenges _____
- d. Economics _____

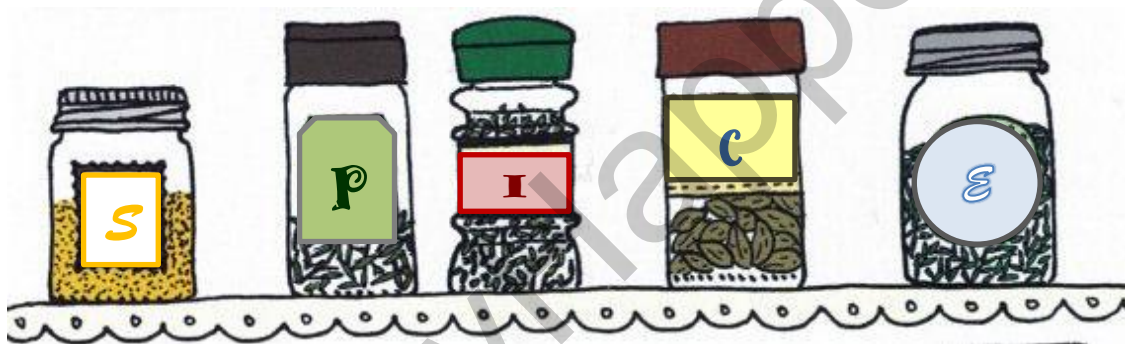
Historical Context

"The atmosphere was ripe..."

-Nick Gupta

1. What was going on in the city, country, other countries that helped your topic or caused your topic or interfered with your topic?

- Social
- Political
- Interactions between humans and the environment
- Cultural
- Economic



2. State the “backstory” in process paper
3. State the “affecting elements” in your project – consider a section to make the connection.
4. Where do I find the historical context?
5. Secondary sources – TAKE NOTES
6. Google... “What was the economic climate in Europe during 1920’s?”

Organizing

1. Begin a labelling system
 - a. Primary (P) or secondary (S)
 - b. Label the source type (video, periodical, book, photo, map, newspapers, speeches, etc.)
2. Use Noodle Tools' organization system
3. Mark hard copies
4. Keep a Tally
5. Separate Opposition
 - a. Different folders for different perspectives
6. Write a simple sentence on the significant element of the source (for annotations later)
7. Put a "Q" next to quotes (for annotations later)
8. FILL IN THE GAPS

	Book	Periodical	Museum	Interview	Gov Doc	Photo	Map	Video
Thirteen Days	P							
Sergei Khrushchev				P				
Cuban Missile Crisis Exhibit			S					
NY Times article		P						
Blockade							S	
Kennedy's Speech					P			
Missiles in Cuba Photo					P	P		
Thirteen Days Movie								S