NATIONAL HISTORY DAY EXHIBIT
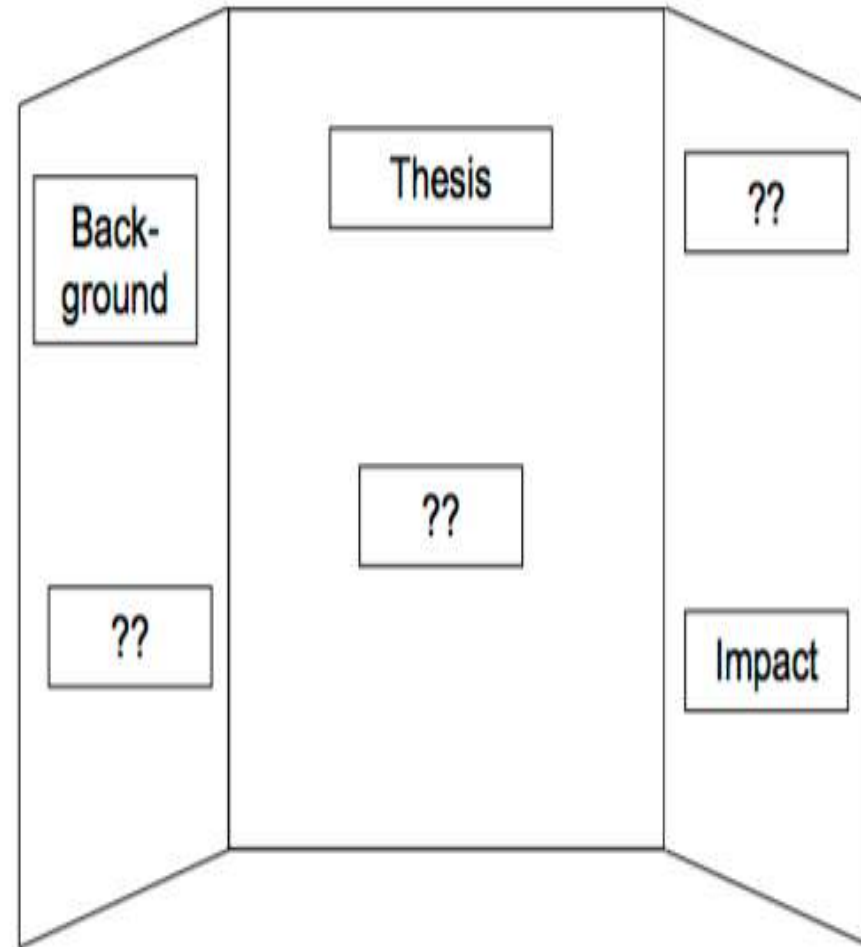
MAKE YOUR THESIS STAND OUT

- It's the most important "thing" on your exhibit.

- • Your thesis must be clear on your exhibit itself.

- • You don't need to label it as "thesis."

- • Instead use the font size, placement, and design elements to help it stand out.

HOW TO ORGANIZE IT?

- Identify the sections you need.
- Each section should be directly connected to supporting your thesis.
- Organize those sections in a logical way.

IDENTIFYING SUPPORTING MATERIAL

- What images, illustrations, documents, or other media can you incorporate?

- • Each item should have a DIRECT connection to the argument you are making.

- • Narrow it down! You will likely have found much more than you can put on your exhibit.

Photographs help the viewer to see what happened.

A map shows you where this took place.

THE ABRAHAM LINCOLN BATTALION

Quotes or passages from interviews provide evidence for the argument.
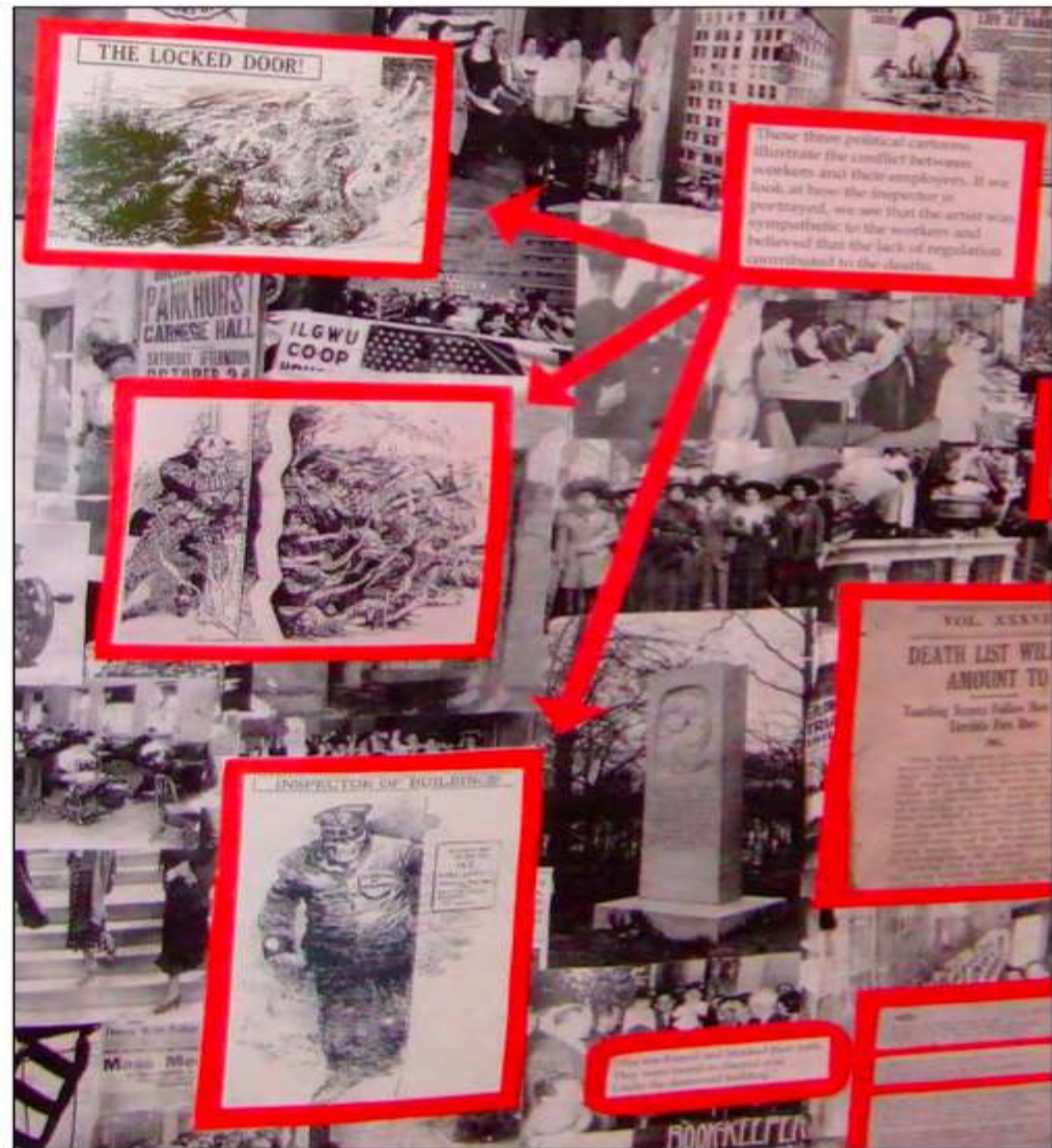
Newspaper headlines provide additional information.

WRITING INTERPRETIVE CAPTIONS

- Brief citations tell the viewer where you found the image/illustration.
  - "Photo from Wisconsin Historical Society"
  - These do NOT count towards your word limit.
- Interpretive captions analyze the supporting material.
  - They're important to show why the image/illustration is there. What does it mean?
  - These DO count towards your word limit.

Instead of just including these three political cartoons on her exhibit, the student also included an interpretive caption.

She uses it to explain how the cartoons connect to her topic and provide evidence for her thesis.

"These three political cartoons illustrate the conflict between workers and their employers. If we look at how the inspector is portrayed, we see that the artist was sympathetic to the workers and believed that the lack of regulation contributed to the deaths."

CHOOSE YOUR COLORS

- The right color choice sets the tone for your project.

- The wrong colors can be confusing or even be offensive.

- Which colors would you use for an exhibit about the American Revolution? The Green Bay Packers? The women's suffrage movement in the United States?

FIND YOUR FONTS

- Fonts can be creative, but they should still be easy to read.

- Save the fancy font for titles and section headers.

- Use a more common font - Ariel, Times New Roman - for the main text.

- Be sure to use a font size is large enough to read from about 2-3 feet away. That's how far away your judges will stand from the exhibit.

Remember the Hierarchy

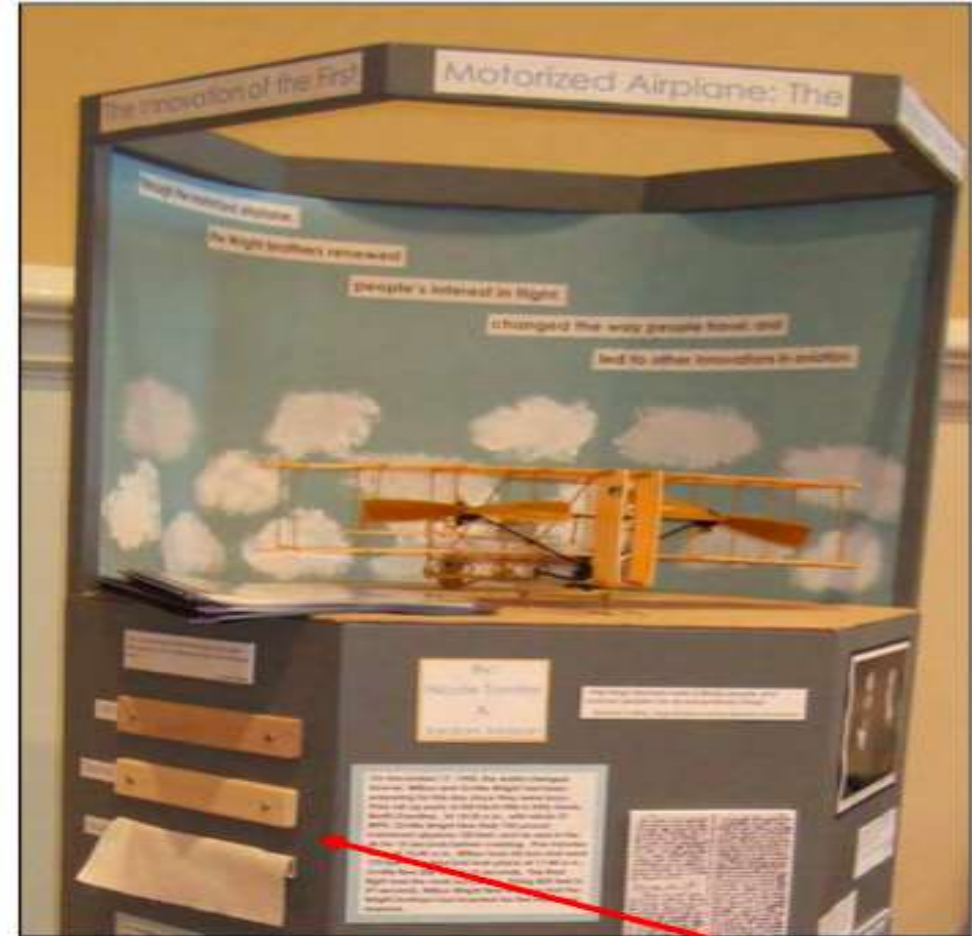- **Varying the size of your font helps viewers to go from the big ideas to the supporting evidence.**

The Title Should Be the Biggest!

Section Headers can be a little smaller.

Text in the body of your exhibit should be smaller yet.

INTERACTIVE ELEMENTS

- Use interactive elements to engage viewers with your exhibit.

- They don't have to be complicated or use lots of technology.

- They must be DIRECTLY connected to your topic and RELEVANT in proving your argument.

- Don't forget you can use the space in front of your exhibit, on the table.

This exhibit lets you see and feel the differences in airplane construction materials.

This exhibit includes a sample of the model home. You can look inside to see the layout!

TITLE MATTERS

- Make it snazzy... but also make sure it describes your topic.

- "Susan B. Anthony: or... "Votes for Women: Susan B. Anthony and the Fight for Suffrage"

- "Agriculture in the 20th Century" or "Adapt or Die: The Impact of Revolutionary Changes in Agriculture in the 20th Century"

- "Louis Pasteur" or "Pasteurization: The Concept that Changed the Way You Look at Milk "

TECHNOLOGY

- You CAN include media in your exhibit.
- The Rules:
- Media devices (DVD players, projectors, video monitors, computer) used in an exhibit must not run for more than a total of 3 minutes and are subject to the 500-word limit.
  - Viewers and judges must be able to control media devices.
  - Any media devices must fit within the size limits of the exhibit.
  - Any media devices used should be integral to the exhibit – not a method to bypass the prohibition against live student involvement.

LEFT PANEL

- Background/Historical Content
- Include
  - Pictures
  - Documents
  - Quotes
- Include
  - What caused the topic/ "setting the scene"
  - Was there events that caused your topic
    - Was there a catalysis

MIDDLE PANEL

- Title- should be put at the top of the board or on a separate piece that fits on top
  - Must be centered
  - Not extending to side panels
  - Large font MUST BE USED
- Thesis
  - Must clear
  - Include the theme words

MIDDLE PANEL

- What is your topic
  - Explain your topic to me as if I don't know what it is
  - Don't us "my topic is" to start your sentence
  - No first person
- What time period did it occur
  - Give specific time periods
- 5 specific points/actions to explain your topic
  - Quotes
  - Primary Document
  - Pictures

RIGHT PANEL

- Immediate Impact
  - Use your 5 specific examples
  - Remember immediate impact is during the topic's time period
- Effect Contemporary People
  - What people thought
    - Quotes
    - Pictures of people
  - Who supported
  - Who opposed
  - Give specific examples and reasons

AREA IN FRONT OF THE BOARD

- Interactive timeline of your topic
  - You must have 10-15 events
  - Do not put birthday or when they died

CHECKLIST

- Meets size requirements
  - No larger than 40 inches wide, 30 inches deep, and 6 feet high
  - Or if the exhibit is circular or rotating it is no more than 30 inches in diameter
- Theme words used throughout
- All pictures, graphs, illustrations, documents, visuals, etc. must include borders and must be labeled
- Title and thesis should be properly displayed
- A maximus of 500 original words can be on the exhibit
- A minimum of 25 visuals display. Remember a minimum of 10 primary sources is required
- NOTHING CAN BE HAND WRITTEN
- Color coordinate
- No empty spaces! Use the whole board
- No Personal Pronouns
- No simple sentences