

National History Day Workshop -- Day 2 -- July 17, 2014

General Notes:

- * No rule that says you must have a timeline
- * just because they have a timeline does NOT mean they have addressed historical context
- * However, as a classroom activity, having them create a timeline helps them get a base of knowledge
- * If they are in groups, make sure parents are fully aware, and if it is a group live performance, make sure all parties understand the dates and the commitment to attend. Groups can't replace people for judging once they start.

THESIS STATEMENT

What is a thesis?

- a roadmap for your project
- usually about 50 words
- a historical interpretation, supported by evidence

Characteristics of a Thesis

- discusses significance
- go beyond more than just facts
- connects to theme
- specific
- continue to think about the "So What?" question

Jackie Robinson was a great baseball player.(weak)

Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier, making it possible for African Americans to play professional sports. (on the road to better)

- more than just facts to come up with your own idea about why your topic is important

George Washington was the first president of the United States.(weak)

The United States gained its independence from Great Britain because of George Washington's military leadership.(on the road to better)

Get students to write in ACTIVE VOICE!

Thesis statements should be FOCUSED -- addresses a specific topic and makes an argument about a specific impact in history.

MLK changed everyone's lives forever. (weak)

MLK's "I Have a Dream" speech brought national attention to the Civil Rights movement. (on the road to better)

Set as a goal to have the THEME WORDS in the Thesis Statement -- leadership/legacy

During the 1919 World Series, eight players were accused of throwing games.

During the 1919 World Series, eight players were accused of throwing games, resulting in the appointment of a baseball commissioner.

During the 1919 World Series, eight players were accused of intentionally actions that made their team lose games. The scandal made the public lose confidence in the game, so they appointed a commissioner who had the power to ban players.

Be prepared to go through several drafts of a thesis statement.

You're going to have to make tough decisions.

Ask "Is this interesting?"

Ask "Is this important?"

Rosa Parks and the Bus Boycott

-- would it include her parents' names? that is interesting but not important

-- would it include her birth date and hometown? that is interesting, but not important

-- day she refused to give up her bus seat? IMPORTANT

Step 1: Write the topic

Rosa Parks AND the Montgomery Bus Boycott

Step 2: Who was involved? Who was affected?

Rosa Parks, citizens of Montgomery, civil rights leaders

Step 3: What happened? What was the main event?

Step 4: Where? When? How long of a time period was it?

Step 5: Why? Motivation?

Step 6: Significance?

Step 7: Theme connections?

In 1955, Rosa Parks took the responsibility for creating a civil rights confrontation when she refused to give up her bus seat to a white passenger in Montgomery, Alabama. The resulting bus boycott and a successful Supreme Court lawsuit demonstrated the effectiveness of non-violent economic protest and legal strategies in securing equal rights.

Characteristics of a strong thesis

- use the theme words
- avoid first person
- don't ask questions in your thesis ... ANSWER THEM! (This is the difference with NHD and SS Fair)
- avoid present tense
- avoid using "should" in your thesis. This is a historical argument, not philosophy
- Watch out for "What if?" history ... focused on what actually happened

ORGANIZATION

- * website = pages
- * exhibit = sections
- * paper = paragraphs
- * documentary = segments

The thesis statement is the ROADMAP to creating your pages of the website or sections of the exhibit.

Sections of an exhibit:

- | | | |
|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| * Background | THESIS | * Short Term Consequences |
| * Build Up | Heart of the Story | * Long Term Consequences |

Titles should match the content of their project.

Should be a little descriptive

- Rosa Parks
- Rosa Parks and the Montgomery Bus Boycott
- Taking a stand by sitting down: Rosa Parks and the Montgomery Bus Boycott
- Taking a stand for civil rights: Rosa Parks and the Montgomery Bus Boycott

Big Picture Background: Emancipation Proclamation, 13th -- 15th Amendments, Plessy v. Ferguson

Build Up: NAACP established in 1909, Rosa Parks joins local chapter of NAACP

Thesis:

Heart of the Story: boycott starts,

Short Term: segregated busses unconstitutional

Long Term: Civil rights movement, Civil Rights Act, Voting Rights Act, Fair Housing Act

Documentary

Title = 15 seconds

Thesis = 1 minute

Background = 2:30

Heart of Story = 2:30

Short Term: 2:30

Conclusion: 1 minute

Credits: 30 seconds

Performance

* Still needs a thesis

* try to fit thesis within first 60 seconds of performance

Example:

Background: Safety and Labor BEFORE Triangle Fire

Build Up: Fire

Heart of Story: Factory Investigating Commission

Short term:

Long term:

Put the LEADERSHIP ACTIONS in the HEART OF THE STORY!

ELEMENTS OF THE THESIS:

key facts

connects with theme

addresses significance

*

WEBSITES

On the homepage:

- a big header
- quotes
- student composed text

Content Pages

- subheading
- student composed text
- illustrations (maps, documents, paintings, photos) with captions
- media

RESEARCH COMES FIRST!

PLOT OUT ON PAPER

FOCUS ON -- proving the thesis with research, historical context

<http://nhd.weebly.com>

Do NOT go through just Weebly.

Going through <http://nhd.weebly.com> allows students access to additional stuff. It allows GA NHD to lock them before judging. Make sure they are NOT password protected. Make sure they are PUBLISHED.

Adding Content:

- write in Word first to create backup, spell check, and word count
- save media to flash or network as you research

THE THESIS

- clear and obvious on site/homepage

Navigational Structure

- linear ... homepage >>> page 1 >>>> page 2 >>>>
- hierarchical homepage with subpages (critical pages with supporting subpages) try to limit subpages

Don't think of media as pretty pictures but as evidence!

Don't overwhelm the judges with PDFs, photos, etc. Just because you can doesn't mean you should.

Interactive as an element -- used to engage, not just entertain.

Process Paper and Bibliography

- * must be included on the site
- * include in navigational structure
- * save as a PDF

Only 4 MINUTES TOTAL for websites

