

National History Day

Advanced Research: Primary Sources and Historical POV



	First Identifying Primary Sources	Second Thinking Like a Historian	Third Historical Significance
Research Description	Analyzing primary sources will help you to draw your own conclusions about the significance of your topic and its connection to the theme.	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.	A thorough understanding of historical contest, 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.
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	<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?