******National History Day**

**Advanced Research: Primary Sources and Historical POV**

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|  | **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** | * Letters, Diaries, Telegraph Messages * Government Documents and Legal Cases * Photos, Moving Footage, Newsreels, Speeches | * Documents that illustrate cultural impact, economic impact, religious impact, political impact, social impact | * 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** | * 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? | * 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? | * 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? |