

# National History Day Research Project

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The goals and objectives for this project are:

1. To demonstrate the ability to use and analyze both primary and secondary sources
2. To further develop independent research skills
3. To practice proper bibliographic format

You may choose to complete this project as an individual or as part of a group of no more than two or three students. As group work is optional, it is up to group members to coordinate times to get together and to ensure fair participation. I will require a group evaluation detailing the individual members responsibilities and level of participation.

There are four key components to this project:

1. **The topic:** You must choose a topic that relates to the theme ***Rights and Responsibilities***. Topics may be chosen from any region in the world or any period in history, however, you will need to include primary sources, so choose a topic that is not too obscure. You may also want your topic to stand out from others by choosing a topic that has not been overdone. Topics relating to Arizona or the Southwest are also encouraged.

Please provide 2 – 3 topic ideas with a paragraph each explaining how your topic relates to the theme and why the topic interests you. All topics must be approved by me. Please refer to the 2013 NHD Theme Book which is posted on my website for ideas and procedures to get started.

2. **A thesis:** This is not a report, but is rather a research project. As such, you will need to write a thesis that states a conclusion you will attempt to prove in your research. The thesis should address each part of this year's theme. It should be three sentences to a paragraph long and must be included in the final project. Your initial thesis may change to reflect new conclusions drawn as your research progresses.

3. **The research project:** You will then produce a project from one of the following categories:

- A research paper (individual project only)
- An exhibit
- A performance
- A documentary
- A web site

The specific rules for each of these categories are listed in the 2011 NHD Rule Booklet, which is posted to my website on the home page. Once you decide on a project, please see me for more specific project specifications, or for clarification/questions. NHD rubrics will be used for the final project (which will be available for reference on my website).

All projects, excluding the research paper, will require a process paper.

All projects must be original work. Any evidence of plagiarism will result in a grade of zero. It is also unacceptable to quote large consecutive portions of text (2 or more paragraphs) even with proper citations. ***This project is intended to demonstrate your own research analyses, interpretations, and conclusions.***

4. **Sources Cited:** You will need an annotated bibliography that includes both primary and secondary sources. You will cite all the sources used in your research using correct MLA format. Two-thirds of your sources should be primary sources with a minimum of fifteen sources are required, but the more related sources you have the better.

Start with secondary sources to give a good overview of your topic and to help define your thesis and direct your research. Then look for a variety of primary sources from various view-points, including letters, official documents, political cartoons, paintings (from the time), photographs, newspaper articles, diaries, etc.

Good repositories for primary sources include:

Arizona Historical Society	<a href="http://arizonahistoricalociety.org">http://arizonahistoricalociety.org</a>
National Archives	<a href="http://archives.gov">http://archives.gov</a>
Library of Congress	<a href="http://www.loc.gov/index.html">http://www.loc.gov/index.html</a>
Fordham University	<a href="http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/index.asp">http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/index.asp</a>

Also, look for newspaper archives and online libraries available from various museums, colleges, and universities. Some of these are referenced on my website under “Research Resources”.

Wikipedia and like sites can be used to find more reliable sources, but ***may not*** be cited in your bibliography.

#### **Important Dates:**

Topics due	Friday, August 30, 2013
Preliminary bibliography	Friday, September 27, 2013
Thesis statement	Friday, October 25, 2013
Rough draft, process paper, & bibliography	Friday, November 22, 2013
Final project, process paper, & final bibliography	Thursday, January 16, 2014

Grades for the first four stages of the NHD research project will be based on the following rubric:

<b>Topic Criteria</b>	<b>Possible Points</b>	<b>Total Points Earned</b>
Includes a workable revolutionary process or event (political, social, intellectual, technological, etc.)	10	
Addresses the reaction to the revolutionary process or event or acknowledges a valid reason this is not addressed	5	
Addresses any reform resulting from the revolutionary process or event or acknowledges a valid reason this is not addressed	5	
Uses correct grammar and spelling	5	
<b>Thesis Criteria</b>		
Presents an <i>arguable</i> thesis	10	
Clearly relates the thesis to the theme, using appropriate summarized evidence	10	
Uses correct grammar and spelling, uses the proper format and length (3 sentences to one paragraph)	5	
<b>Rough Draft Criteria</b>		
Complies with the specific project specifications, including process paper (except for individual research papers)	10	
Incorporates a solid thesis (see above criteria)	10	
Information is historically correct and adequately supported	10	
Uses correct spelling, grammar, and word usage.	10	
Shows creativity and effort.	10	
<b>Bibliography (Sources Cited) Criteria</b>		
Includes at least fifteen sources	10	
Includes a variety of sources (visual & written) and both primary (2/3 of total) and secondary – separate primary and secondary sources (required by NHD regulations)	10	
Uses correct MLA format (see reference guide provided on my website) or go to <a href="http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/">http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/</a>	10	
Sources are in alphabetical order (within categories) in 12 point Times New Roman Font	10	
Sources are annotated – indicate pertinent information about source/author and how you used the source in your project	10	
<b>TOTAL POINTS GIVEN</b>	<b>150</b>	

**The final National History Day research project will be graded using the rubrics used by the NHD judges. The rubrics are available on my website. They vary slightly according to project type.**