Name:

Period:

National History Day Topic Proposal

Packet due, Friday, October 18th

*Leadership & Legacy*

**Background:**

Prior to students receiving this packet. Monday, September 29th students are introduced to National History day with the Intro to NHD PowerPoint and going over this year’s theme sheet as well as possible topics.

**Primary vs. Secondary and Topic Selection**

For your National History Day Project you will be required to locate many primary and secondary sources.  What is the difference?

**A primary source** is a document or physical object, which was written or created during the time under study. These sources were present during an experience or time period and offer an inside view of a particular event. Some types of primary sources include:

* ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS (excerpts or translations acceptable): Diaries, speeches, manuscripts, letters, interviews, news film footage, autobiographies, official records
* CREATIVE WORKS: Poetry, drama, novels, music, art
* RELICS OR ARTIFACTS: Pottery, furniture, clothing, buildings

Examples of primary sources include:

* Diary of Anne Frank - Experiences of a Jewish family during WWII
* The Constitution of Canada - Canadian History
* A journal article reporting NEW research or findings
* Weavings and pottery - Native American history
* Plato's Republic - Women in Ancient Greece

**A secondary source** interprets and analyzes primary sources. These sources are one or more steps removed from the event. Secondary sources may have pictures, quotes or graphics of primary sources in them. Some types of secondary sources include:

* PUBLICATIONS: Textbooks, magazine articles, histories, criticisms, commentaries, encyclopedias

Examples of secondary sources include:

* A journal/magazine article which interprets or reviews previous findings
* A history textbook
* A book about the effects of WWI

**Step #1: Initial Topic Selection**

Every year National History Day frames students' research within a historical theme. The theme is chosen for the broad application to world, national or state history and its relevance to ancient history or to the more recent past. This year's theme is **Leadership & Legacy.**

You may select a person, idea, or event.......it doesn’t have to be all three but it may be more than one.

See the theme sheet for more information on this year’s theme and possible topics.

* Take a few minutes and list as many PEOPLE, IDEAS, and EVENTS that come to mind that have left significant changes/legacies that you would enjoy researching:
* Complete your narrowing your topics down. Please complete on a separate sheet of paper. Choose your top three people/ideas/events and narrow your topic to as specific as possible (you will be creating 3 graphic organizers each with at least 2 guiding research questions):
  + Example:

General: Environment

Narrower: Global Warming

Narrower: Effect of Automobiles

Specific: Hybrid Cars

Possible Research Questions:

1. How does hybrid technology reduce fuel consumption?
2. Does driving a hybrid car significantly reduce factors that lead to global warming?
3. What is the battery life of the hybrid cars? What is the environmental effect of disposing batteries?

**Step #2: Library Day 1 (Monday, October 14th)**

Look at your lists above.  Which of those people, ideas, and events would be easy to locate primary and secondary sources on and would make for a unique and interesting project?

List your top 3 choices from your previous brainstorm:

1.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Use the Online Databases in the library <http://www.westtechresourcecenter.net> to locate information about your possible topics.  If you have a difficult time finding information in the Online databases you may want to eliminate that topic.

Write down any notes or ideas that you have while you research below:

**Step #3: Impact of your topic**

Imagine that your topic is a stone thrown into the center of a lake. The water ripples that surround your stone demonstrate the consequences or impacts of your topic. Whether your topic is a person, event, or idea, if it has historical significance, it will create change, both short-term and long-term, in the world around it. By demonstrating links between periods of time you provide your audience with historical perspective, or how one person, event, or idea has influence on the events that follow.

If your topic is a...**PERSON**

How did [your topic]’s actions influence other people?

How did [your topic]’s goal shift or conclude as a result of their choices?

What were the consequences of [your topic]’s decisions and actions?

What additional actions were caused by [your topic]’s activities?

If your topic is an...**EVENT**

What was the public response to [your topic]?

How did the people involved in [your topic] change as a result of their experience?

How was [your topic] recorded in the newspaper?

If your topic is an...**IDEA**

How did [your topic] reshape the established/accepted ideas?

What kind of social, political, and/or cultural action did [your topic] inspire?

Complete a ripple effect graphic organizer on your topic. See Impact of your topic worksheet for an example.

**Step #4: Topic Proposal:**

This packet including your completed topic proposal form is due on Friday, October 18th.

Name(s) :

Type of Entry that interests you: \_\_\_\_\_Historical paper (individuals only)

\_\_\_\_\_ Documentary \_\_\_\_\_Individual \_\_\_\_\_Group

\_\_\_\_\_ Museum Exhibit \_\_\_\_\_Individual \_\_\_\_\_Group

\_\_\_\_\_ Website \_\_\_\_\_Individual \_\_\_\_\_Group

\_\_\_\_\_Performance \_\_\_\_\_Individual \_\_\_\_\_Group

[This is not a firm commitment, but they should have an idea of what they’re interested in – especially if they are a group]

**Proposal Description** – Who / what do you want to study?

Subject:

🡪 Why are you interested in studying this person / event / idea?

🡪 Describe why this person / event is important – explain the historical significance. Give three clear reasons why this was important to history at a local, state, national, or international level:

a.

b.

c.

🡪 So what? Why is this important enough for you to research and present? Convince me.