



Oklahoma National History Day

Choosing a Topic

When you are thinking about your History Day topic, you might start with a broad or popular topic. But don't stop there! Students often choose topics that are so general that it becomes impossible to completely explore their subject. Many other students choose events with which they are familiar. These topics are often grossly overused. When deciding on your topic, try looking at a well-known event or figure from a different angle and coming up with a more narrow and focused topic. Below are some examples of wide topics that have found a more specific or unique focus.

Too Broad/Overused	More Narrow/Specific Topic
Trail of Tears	Fort Gibson's role in the Trail of Tears
Martin Luther King Jr.	Roscoe Dunjee and the <i>Black Dispatch</i>
Civil rights movement	Role of the NAACP in Oklahoma
D-Day	Jake McNiece and "the Filthy Thirteen"
Pearl Harbor	Aloysius H. Schmitt and the USS <i>Oklahoma</i> Paul Goodyear and the <i>Oklahoma's</i> Legacy
Revolutionary War	Nathan Hale and His Impact on the Revolution The Role of General von Steuben at Valley Forge
Holocaust	The Nuremberg Trials 45th Infantry Division Liberates Dachau
<i>Titanic</i>	Class Structure on the <i>Titanic</i> and Its Impact on Survival Rates
Industrial Revolution	Industrial Revolution and Changes in the Home Child Labor
Dust Bowl	The Dust Bowl in Boise City Dust Pneumonia Oglala Aquifer Okie Migration
Gettysburg	Citizens of Gettysburg After the Battle Creation of the National Cemetery System
NASA	Women in NASA
George Washington	George Washington the Farmer
Abraham Lincoln	Abraham Lincoln and the Homestead Act
Thomas Jefferson	Thomas Jefferson and the Louisiana Purchase
Rosie the Riveter	Women at the Douglas Aircraft Plant
Title IX	<i>Randolph v. Owasso Public Schools</i>
Suffrage	Mary Church Terrell
Abolition	William Wells Brown: Abolitionist and Author
Land run	Lew Carroll and His Role in the 1889 Land Run
Civil War	Civil War Surgery First Kansas Colored Infantry Civil War and the Texas Road
Vietnam War	The Gulf of Tonkin Resolution
Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire	The Role of the Pinkerton Detective Agency
World War II	Comanche Code Talkers
Polio Vaccine	Henrietta Lacks and HeLa Cells