

Background

Put your topic into historical context.

- What does my audience need to know to understand my exhibit?
- Include information on your big topic (example: Civil War, Civil Rights Movement, Women's Suffrage, etc.)
- What was taking place before, or at the same time, as your topic that influenced it?
- What outside people, ideas, or events influenced your topic?
- What else do viewers need to know to understand the background of the topic?

Build-Up

Give more specific info related to your topic than the "Background" section. You can also think of this as "the spark" setting the main event into action.

- Give info on your narrowed topic.
- Include information needed to understand your thesis.
- Who were the main players and what were they doing relating to the main events of your topic?
- What led up to the main event(s)?
- What was life like before the main event(s) of your topic?

Project Title

Historical Thesis

Statement

- 1-3 sentences
- Your argument
- Relate to the theme

The "Heart of the Story" or "Main Events" describe the key details of your topic.

- Cover the 5 Ws: who, what, when, where, why.
- First reason that supports your argument.
- Second reason that supports your argument.
- Third reason that supports your argument.
- Further relate to the theme.
- Give the major details about the main event(s) in your topic. What actually happened?
- Include specific details about the most critical people and events related to your topic.
- This section generally covers a smaller time period (several months to several years).

Short-Term Impact

Focus on what happened shortly after the main events of your topic.

- What are some of the reactions to the main event shortly after it happened? Be sure to consider positive and negative reactions.
- What did it change or do short-term? Did anything change right away? Were there new laws, or new ways of thinking?
- Who was affected by the event? Were there intended or unintended consequences?

Long-Term Impact

Take a step back and think about your topic's **historical significance**. Be sure to connect this back to your historical thesis and tie it to the theme!

- Why is this important?
- How is your argument different from what others have argued?
- How are things different because of your topic? What is the long-term significance?
- Did your topic influence other historical events?
- Why is this topic important in history? Does this have an impact today?

Title

Background

Historical Thesis Statement

Short-Term Impact

The “Heart of the Story” or “Main Events”
describe the key details of your topic.

Build-Up

Long-Term Impact