

PLANNING YOUR EXHIBIT

Each section of your exhibit will support your historical thesis. Plan out what ideas you want to include in each section.

Be sure to come up with creative titles for each section of the exhibit.

Don't forget to include your process paper as part of your exhibit.

PROJECT TITLE

Background

Put your topic into historical context.

- What does my audience need to know to understand my exhibit?
- Include information on your big topic (ex- Civil War, Civil Rights Movement, etc.).
- What was taking place before or at the same time as your topic that influenced it?
- What outside people, ideas, or events were going on to influence your topic?
- What other info does your viewer 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 information on your narrowed topic.
- Include information needed to understand your thesis.
- Who are the main players and what are they doing for 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?

HISTORICAL THESIS STATEMENT

**-1-3 SENTENCES-
-YOUR ARGUMENT-
-RELATE TO THEME-**



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

- Cover the 5 W's (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 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? New laws? 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 the **historical significance** of your topic. 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