

# National History Day Topic Search

This year's theme is Debate and Diplomacy in History: Successes, Failures, Consequences. To see some examples and explanations, please visit the following links: <https://www.nhd.org/>, <https://www.slideshare.net/MNHHistoryDay/intro-to-history-day-and-debatediplomacy> (ideas and examples start around slide 25), <https://digital.janeaddams.ramapo.edu/exhibits/show/debate-and-diplomacy/dd-theme> You will find several topic suggestions. Please note that these are only suggestions, and you are strongly encouraged to explore topics outside of the proposals. History is everywhere and everything, not just wars, and epic battles, but also pop culture and sports. The sky is the limit.

Once you and your child have looked over some samples of topics, please sit down and brainstorm some ideas that interest your child. Remember that this will be a seven-month process, so we want to make sure you pick something of meaning/interest to your child so that they so that they will enjoy researching their topic and will be eager to read and know more. Topics being considered must have occurred before 2001. Anything after that will not have enough documentation and tend not to carry enough historical significance because we have not had enough time to truly feel its effect on history.

After you have brainstormed topic ideas, pick your three favorites. Please print out this document and complete the section below with your three topic choices and how you are going to relate it to Debate and Diplomacy in History: Successes, Failures, Consequences. Make sure to put them in order from the most interesting topic first to your "least" interesting topic third.

You can choose to do this project individually or with a partner(s). Each student will complete the same amount of research and writings regardless of working as an individual or partner. When we get to the presentation phase, in January, students who are working as partners will then take their research and combine it and then create the presentation together. NHD is about developing skills needed to set your child up for success in his or her future educational setting. I promise to walk them through each step of this project to help them understand and feel successful while developing these essential skills.

After completing the three topic idea sections, please drop off your child's paperwork at the 318 building or mail it to St. Luke School, 318 11<sup>th</sup> Street, Columbus, GA. 31901, to my attention, or email the documents to me at [bwaldheim@stlukeum.com](mailto:bwaldheim@stlukeum.com) by July 23. Please remember that the school office will be closed at some point this summer and that the office summer hours are Monday – Thursday from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. I will email your child's topic to you as quickly as possible after I have reviewed all topics.

Once you have topic approval, you will need to go out and get **three secondary books** and **two primary books** on your topic. (**Secondary Sources:** A *secondary source* is any *source* about an event, period, or issue in history that was produced after that event, period, or issue has passed. **Primary Sources:** A *primary source* provides direct or firsthand evidence about an event, object, person, or work of art. **Primary sources** include autobiographies, historical and legal documents, eyewitness accounts, results of experiments, statistical data, pieces of creative writing, audio and video recordings, speeches, and art objects.) Be prepared to jump right into your project when you report to school. We will use these five sources right away by creating note cards, bibliography cards, and starting our annotated bibliography. My goal is to make this process as easy as possible while building strong research skills that will be an asset in the future.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Explain how you are going to relate your topic to the 2021 – 2022 theme.**

Topic 1: How will you relate it to this year's theme, Debate and Diplomacy in History: Successes, Failures, Consequences?

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Topic 2: How will you relate it to this year's theme, Debate and Diplomacy in History: Successes, Failures, Consequences?

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Topic 3: How will you relate it to this year's theme, Debate and Diplomacy in History: Successes, Failures, Consequences?