

Things to consider about your topic

Analyze rather than describe.

What is it about the topic that is new and different?

Was it a result of human ideas or actions? If so, who and what?

Why was the event important or significant, and how is it remembered today?

How did the event impact or change history? Demonstrate that impact.

What were the historical (economic, political, social, technological, cultural, and religious) circumstances that led to the event?

Address the “so what” of the topic and the significance of the topic.

Why is it important for everyone to know about this topic?

Look at the effects or results of the event(s) – how did people react initially, in the short term, and over the long term?

What were the successes of this event – what worked?

What were the failures of this event – what didn't work?

What were the consequences of this event – what happened or changed because of it?

Determine your research focus

Ask and answer questions similar to these, but specific to your topic:

What dates are important?

What places are important?

What causes led up to my topic? *What happened before my event that caused it?*

What impact did my topic have at the time or in the future?

What issues did my topic face, or surround my topic?

How did the issues change over time?

Why is my topic significant today?

- 1 Who?
- 2 Where?
- 3 What?
- 4 When?
- 5 Why?
- 6 How?
- 7 So what?
- 8 How come?