

2013 History Fair

St. Lucie Public Schools

History Fair

• Will help you:

- Use the tools of historical research and inquiry
- Develop organizational skills
- Improve your writing
- Learn to think critically
- Integrate visual information (e.g., in charts, graphs, photographs, videos, or maps) with other information in print and digital texts
- Gain confidence in your public speaking ability

What will I do?

- In-depth study of an idea, person, or event
- Examine the past
- Onnect history to the present
- Discover and analyze primary and secondary sources
- Examine an issue from different points of view
- Produce your own interpretation of history, in your own way, based on the facts

Scope of the project

- Where is my focus?
- Some topics are TOO BIG narrow it down
- Even in big events and big lives, look for the little details and stories
- Topics of local interest are encouraged, let your heroes tell their history and support it with facts

Turning Points

- NOT a biography or historical narrative
- What did the person, idea, event, etc. change or do differently that has changed history?
- How was it a turning point?
- What was the long-term impact?
- Did it lead to other events?
- Describe the environment in which it took place
- Describe the time period and historical background

Turning Points

- How did it affect: political systems, governments, religion, moral beliefs, relations between groups or nations, science, or economic systems?
- What was supposed to happen?
- What actually happened?

You are the historian

- Always examine your topic for the short-term consequences and the long-term change
- Your interpretation of the consequences and the historical significance of your topic should be based on your research and supported by reliable evidence

Step by step

- The task is not difficult if you focus on each step in the process.
- It will be painful if you try to do everything at the very end.

Selecting a topic

- Think about scientific, economic, and cultural turning points – not just wars or politics.
- Output Can you describe how it is an example of a turning point?
- It doesn't have to be 200 years ago, but a <u>rule of</u>
 <u>thumb</u> is that it should be *at least* one generation (25 years) ago.
- Have you already conducted some research on it?
- Will you have a variety of resources?
- You analyze and develop your own conclusions.

As you begin...

- Ask questions:
 - 1. What factors contribute to a turning point in history?
 - Why did this event, idea, or person create a turning point in history?
 - 3. Was the society better?
 - 4. Did the changes indicate progress?
 - 5. Were the results more negative than positive?

Points of Interest

- Write 3 BIG questions that everyone would want to know about your topic:
 - What was the turning point about?
 - In what ways does it fit the theme?
 - Why did it happen at that particular time and in that particular place?
 - What drove the event, idea, or person and what change occurred because of it/them?
 - Were there benefits? For whom?
 - How did people react initially and over the longer term to the new idea, arrangement, organization, reform, or technology?
 - What factors contributed to your understanding?

Supporting evidence

Our Primary Sources

- Documents, photos, letters from the actual time
- Interviews (oral & written) with people who were there
- Internet or hard (paper) sources
- May give conflicting viewpoints
- Secondary Sources
 - Someone else's interpretation or explanation
 - Textbooks, encyclopedia, books
 - Internet or hard (paper) sources

YOU MUST DOCUMENT ALL SOURCES YOU USE

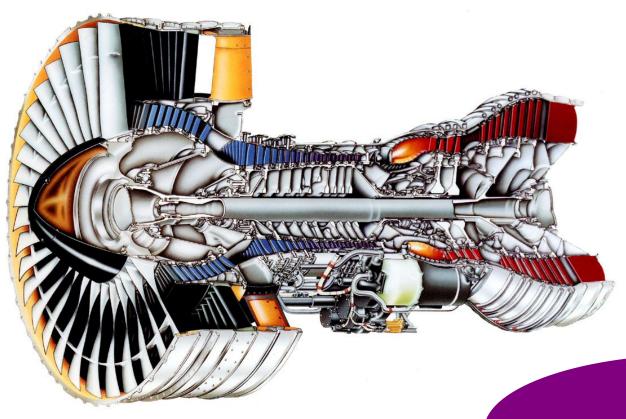




Google Search	I'm Feeling Lucky	
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I Make Google my homepage

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Here are the details for the source

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Presenting your research

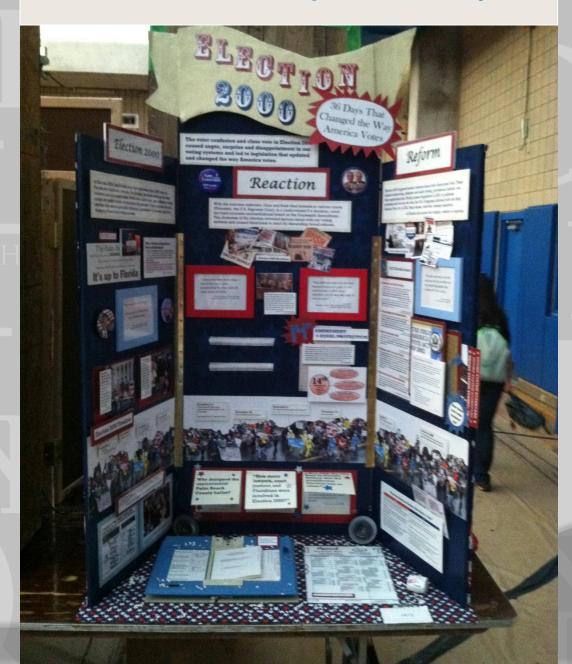
- Base your choice on 4 main factors:
 - Personal preference and what you are good at (art, writing, video, acting, web)
 - Nature of your topic
 - Available resources (visual, musical, pre-photography).
 Some topics don't have enough visuals to support
 - Your teacher's requirements and advice
- Individual or Group?
 - Work with others who share your enthusiasm
 - Work with those who work as hard as you
 - Working by yourself is sometimes easier than in a group

Exhibit

Ask yourself these questions:

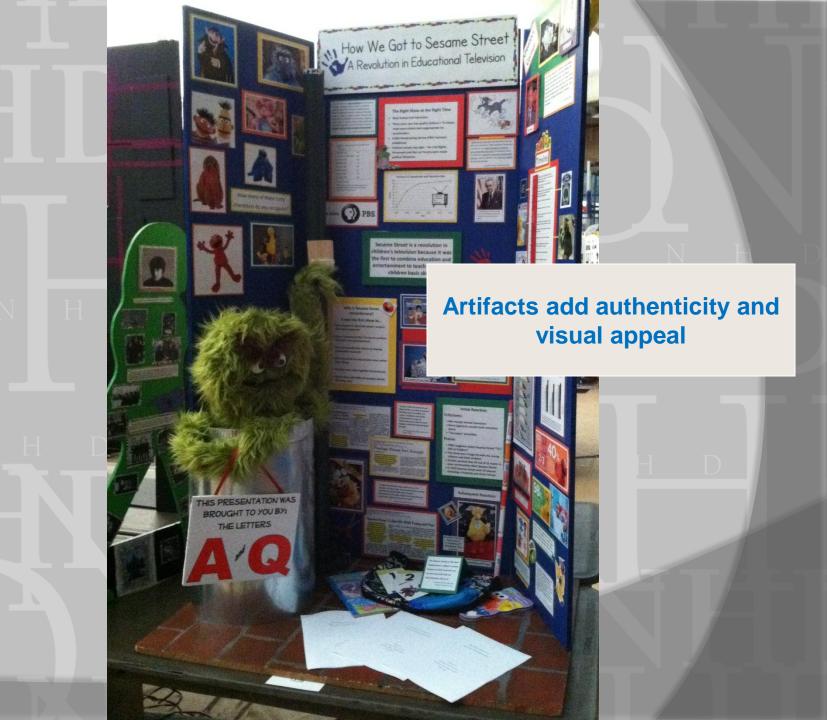
- Do I like museums and looking at how displays are put together?
- Do I have access to materials and the skills to build the exhibit?
- Can I find visuals (maps, photos) to illustrate my topic?
- Can I think outside the box for designing my display, or build my exhibit IN or AROUND a box?
- Can I create timelines and other graphics to illustrate my topic?
- Can I artistically arrange words and pictures in an exhibit?
- Is creating an exhibit the best way to present my research?

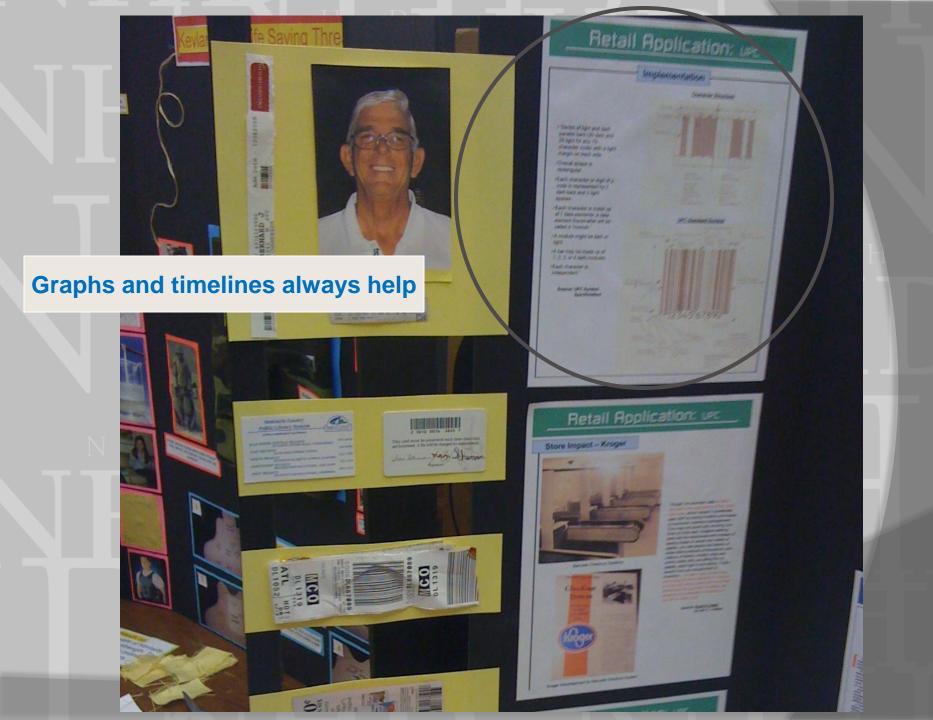
Use visuals to help tell the story

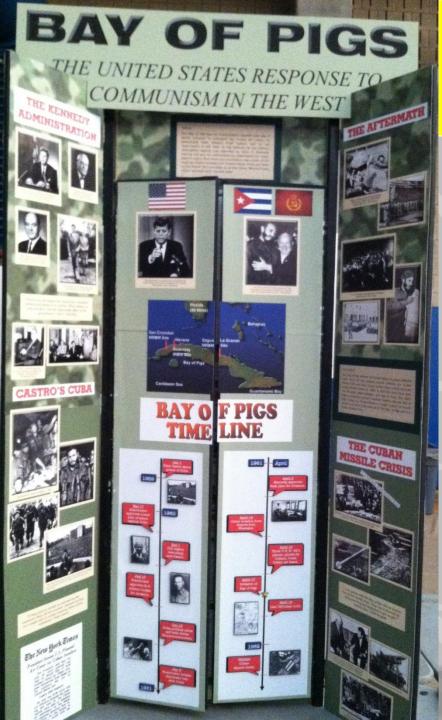


Find a great image or integrate props









Layers allow viewer to uncover facts...



...as they turn the page



Not limited to display boards





Not limited to display boards

Documentary

- 10 minute video on DVD created with Windows Movie Maker or similar software.
- Am I interested in using computers, cameras, technology?
- Can I conduct and record interviews for my topic?
- Can I find video clips to use in my documentary?
- Are there enough still photos (at least 30) related to my topic for 10 minutes of excitement?
- O I have access to necessary equipment such as:
 - Video editing program, computer, cameras, scanners, recording devices?
- Is creating a documentary the best way to present my research?

Performance

- Do I like to show off for my friends or am I taking Drama class?
- Are there enough primary and secondary sources from which I can create an effective and original 10 minute script?
- O I have the creative writing skills to produce an original script?
- Can I find the critical elements in a person's life to portray?
- Can I create a "real" person who symbolizes the reasons for and consequences of the event?
- Will I be able to create simple yet effective costumes and props that will make my performance come alive (costumes and props should NOT be complicated)?
- Is creating a performance the best way to present my research?

Paper

- Do I like to write and am I good at it?
- Is my topic about a person, idea, or event (or a combination)?
- I have many sources that cover each specific part of my research
- Lots of government-type documentary evidence
- Output Can I describe the event, person, or idea?
- Is a paper the best way to present my research?

Cautious reminders

- Do I like to write and am I good at it?
- 2,500 word research paper with full, in-text citations in MLA style
- No stealing, borrowing, expropriating, copying other peoples' work
- All information in any category must be documented
- Teachers must verify originality of research and writing

Website

- Are there images, articles, audio, other media or other interactive elements that I can use?
- Can I electronically present the event, person, idea, etc.?
- Is this the most effective way of presenting my research and analysis?

Be mindful...

- The theme is a broad one, so topics should be carefully selected and developed in ways that best use your talents and abilities.
- Whether a topic is a well-known event in history or focuses on a little known individual from a small community, you should place your topic into historical perspective, examine the significance of your topic in history, and show development over time.

St. Lucie's 2013 History Fair

- School Fair Top 6 exhibits, performances, documentaries, websites, and top 3 papers represent your school at the District History Fair
- District History Fair Saturday, March 2, 2013
 - Oak Hammock K-8 School, 9:00-2:30
- District History Fair Awards Wednesday, March 6
 - Ft. Pierce Central HS, 6:00-8:00