**Historical Research Plan**

**Step 1: Selecting a Topic Category**

Brainstorm ideas by reading through the Topic Categories.

**Step 2: Background Reading for Historical Context**

Look at several different history books and websites about the time period in which the topic takes place.

**Step 3: Narrowing Your Topic**

Selecting a National History Day topic is a process of gradually narrowing the area of history (period or event) that interests the students. For example, if the student is interested in Native Americans and the theme is *Conflict and Compromise in History,* the process might look something like this:

Theme:  ***Triumph and Tragedy in History***  
  Area of Interest: Native American history  
  Topic: Battle of Wounded Knee  
  Research Questions: What was the long-term impact of the Battle of Wounded Knee on US-Native American policy?

**Step 4: Developing a Research Plan *(Wednesday, October 24)*  (3 PAGES)**

*Must include the following:*

* ***Topic***
* *Possible* ***Research questions*** *(3-5)*
* ***Background info*** *(~ 3 paragraphs)*
  + *Provide some historical context for your research topic.*
* ***Potential sources*** *(both primary and secondary) with proper citations*
  + *Where might you go for sources?*
  + ***No*** *tertiary sources (e.g., Wikipedia)*

**Possible topics**

• The Winter of Valley Forge: Triumph and Tragedy in the Continental Army

• The Missouri Compromise: Unable to Hold Off the Tragedy of the Civil War

• Salem Witch Trials

• Smallpox and Inoculation

• Posthumous Portraiture: Creating Artistic Triumph out of Tragedy

• The First Battle of Bull Run: Anticipated Union Triumph Leads to Tragedy

• Mormon Migration to Utah

• Chicago: America’s Second City

• Hudson River Valley School: Triumph of Nature

• The Battle of Little Bighorn

• The Triumphs and Tragedies of the Transcontinental Railroad

• D-Day: Triumph Despite Tragedy

• Ford Motor Company’s Assembly Line: A Triumph for Capitalism

• Banning of DDT: Rachel Carson’s Triumph

• Loving v. Virginia: Tragedy of Time, Triumph of Love

• The Great Raid on Camp Cabanatuan

• Rerouting the Chicago River: An Engineering Triumph

• Indentured Servants in Colonial Virginia

• The Creation of the Atomic Bomb: Scientific Triumph or Human Tragedy?

• Abstract Expressionism: American Artistic Triumph

• Impressment of Sailors: An American Tragedy?

• The Tragedy of McCarthyism

• The Three-Fifths Compromise

• The Tet Offensive

• American Settlers Versus Native Americans

• Little Rock Nine: Triumph and Tragedy of Integration

• Reconstruction: Tragedy Follows Triumph

• The Jungle and the Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906

• Alice Paul and the Woman Suffrage Movement

• Executive Order 8802: S