

Research Tips

Suggestions for Sources – Dos and Don'ts

- **DON'T's**
 - Wikipedia
 - Your textbook/materials for this class
 - General encyclopedias (Britannica, World Book, etc.)
 - History.com, PBS.org, etc.
 - Video sites or movies (including YouTube)
 - Educational websites designed for children
- **DO's**
 - Scholarly journal articles from historical magazines, websites, databases, etc.
 - Articles published by reputable historians, professors, researchers, etc.
 - Newspaper or magazine articles from the time period
 - Primary sources (speeches, diaries, government docs, propaganda, etc.)
 - Non-fiction books written by reputable authors
 - Reputable or academic websites (e.g., .edu, .gov, .org)
 - Online archives or collections of primary sources
 - Look for sources in the following locations:
 - JSTOR
 - EBSCO
 - GALILEO
 - Google SCHOLAR
 - Public or university libraries
 - US Library of Congress website
 - US National Archives website
 - The History Network (H-net.org)

When in doubt, ask your teacher or paper advisor for suggestions!

Suggestions for Presentations

- Create a PowerPoint presentation.
- Present your findings on a tri-fold poster board.
- Make a movie or animation.
- Write and perform a song.
- Create a playable board game.
- Write and perform a skit.
- Create a “Crash Course”-style video.
- Create digital poster using Canva.
- Design a magazine spread.
- Create and present a Pecha Kucha.
- Combine 2 or more of the options on this choice board.
- Anything else you come up with...

Research Tips

Reflection

- Examples of methods used by historians:
 - Selecting areas of investigation (How do historians decide what is significant or worthy of study?)
 - Locating and examining different types of sources (primary, secondary, documents, oral histories, etc.)
 - Analyzing evidence and weighing different perspectives
 - Critically examining historiography
 - Evaluating/ making judgments
 - Comparison and/or corroboration
 - Looking for patterns
 - Interpretation (Is history more creative and subjective? Or is it more scientific and objective?)
 - Reaching a balanced conclusion
 - Communicating an argument
- Examples of challenges faced by historians:
 - A lack of evidence
 - Where there is scant evidence, historians fill in the gaps with reasonable judgments, educated guesses, or speculation
 - Difficulty of determining historical truth
 - Inability to verify information or prove something without a doubt
 - Every source is biased
 - Historical narratives may be used:
 - For political purposes
 - To promote nationalism
 - For personal or group identity
 - For entertainment
 - For advertising or as propaganda
 - Difficulty of remaining objective / personal biases