

## **Single-Paragraph INTRODUCTION**

Tell the whole story in one to three sentences—your thesis statement!

Introduce your topic—  
“Say what you are going to say.”  
Have a hook!

## **Theme**

What do you want the audience to believe or feel?

Be clear about how your topic relates to the History Day theme.

## **Multi-Paragraph BODY**

“Say it!” Tell the whole story! Include all your main points and make them all clear. Be concise and succinct, punchy and powerful! Make people *want* to read your work.

### **Characters**

Give multiple perspectives. Look at your story from several points of view. Show how different individuals and groups perceived or understood the issues differently, how they reacted, and how they were impacted.

## **Plot**

Have a beginning, middle, and end. Include WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, WHY, and HOW. Give facts and dates. Explain earlier influences and later impacts.

## **Setting**

Put your story in its historical context. Where and when did it happen? *Why* did it happen there and at that time? How did people react differently than they might now because of where and when they live?

*For a paper/web site:*

Write more—between 1500 and 2500 words total. Add well-organized and well-developed supporting statements to each main point. Add details. Cite quotations. Papers can also add photos, pictures, and maps in a referenced appendix. Web sites should add color, graphics, music, video, and/or interactive pieces.

*For an exhibit:*

Add photos, pictures, maps. Add quotes. Add artifacts, models, and/or interactive pieces. Use color. Design a compelling layout that leads the viewer logically through the story. Build a sturdy support structure that—by its design—helps to tell or illustrate the story.

## **Single-Paragraph CONCLUSION**

Summarize your story in a short paragraph— “Say what you’ve said.” Don’t add any new topics or ideas. *Don’t* use the words “in conclusion.”

Tie it all together—your story, your topic, the History Day theme. Leave your audience satisfied that you are finished.

You have a maximum of 500 words for your written work due in January—that would be all the parts in black on this page. You may have unlimited bulleted quotations to support each paragraph in the body.