

Taking Notes For History Day

FIRST

Find a resource that has good information.

If you don't have a computer available, you should *immediately* write out the correct entry for the bibliography on a separate 3 x 5 card.

If you have access to a computer, you should *immediately* type in the correct entry for the bibliography:

Tuchman, Barbara W. *A Distant Mirror: The Calamitous 14th Century*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1978. Print.

SECOND

Take notes. Record the facts in as much detail as possible. Double-check numbers and spelling. Be accurate!

Look for “perfect” sentences that say something so well you will want to quote them in your project. Copy those sentences word-for-word *exactly*. If you are quoting a passage, remember to use quotation marks and write down the author and page number(s). You will need that information for your *citation*.

- The Black Death reached southern England in the summer of 1348.
- About a third of the people in Europe died—about 20 million.
- Bodies were dumped in layers in burial pits.
- The Scots, before they started getting sick, prepared to invade England, but then they got sick too.
- “The chronicler Henry Knighton, canon of Leicester Abbey, reported 5,000 dead in one field alone” (Tuchman 98).

THIRD

Read your notes. Decide what part of your topic they address. Above your notes, at the top on the left, add a subtopic. On the top right put the author's name. If you have more than one resource by the same author, put the title there, too. (The primary title is enough.)

The Plague Reaches England

Tuchman, *A Distant Mirror*

- The Black Death reached southern England in the summer of 1348.
- About a third of the people in Europe died—about 20 million.
- Bodies were dumped in layers in burial pits in London.
- Before they started getting sick, the Scots prepared to invade England, but then they got sick too.
- “The chronicler Henry Knighton, canon of Leicester Abbey, reported 5000 dead in one field alone” (Tuchman 98).

FOURTH

Write your annotation right away. Tell what kind of resource it is and where you found it. Tell what kind of information it gave you. Explain why it is a good resource. Explain why it is a primary or secondary resource.

Casual version like you might tell your friends:

This was a really great book, but long. My parents have it and they said I should use it. It told about the plague. It's secondary because she wasn't alive in the 1300s.

Formal writing version, which is what you must use for History Day:

This book, which came from the home library of one of the students in the group, gave a detailed account of the plague in Europe in the 1300s. It was written by Barbara Tuchman, a respected historian who won two Pulitzer Prizes. Although it is a secondary source written in the 20th century, it contains many primary source quotations and photographs of primary source materials. It also has an extensive bibliography.