

## 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.