

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:

For a paper write 1500-2500 words. For a website write a maximum of 1200 words. 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:

Write a maximum of 500 words. 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. Make your point!

Your written work is due in January. Make sure you do not exceed the number of words allowed for your type of presentation. You are allowed unlimited quotations to support each paragraph in the body.