

ORGANIZE YOUR HISTORY FAIR ARGUMENT

FIRST, TELL ME:

THESIS CHECKLIST REMINDER

- Is it based on a narrow and focused topic?
- Does it state what changed?'
- Does it argue why the change is historically significant? (The "so what" factor.)
- Can your argument be backed up by evidence?
- If you are using the theme, is it clearly used in your thesis?

THESIS STATEMENT (USUALLY TWO SENTENCES)

NOW, SHOW ME:

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND and the CONTEXT

What were things like BEFORE these events that help understand why these things happened? What other things were going to DURING the time period that help us understand these events? Is there relevant national or global context?

What EVIDENCE will I use to support this part of my argument?

Facts, statistics, photos, maps, quotes, fliers, posters, details, graphs, etc.

Subhead for this section

BUILD-UP: What happened to spur the change?

(For example, a problem, issue, crisis, challenge)

What EVIDENCE will I use to support this part of my argument?

Facts, statistics, photos, maps, quotes, fliers, posters, details, graphs, etc.

Subhead for this section

Subhead for this section

WHAT HAPPENED—How & Why?

How did people try to create change? How did others respond? What events took place?

What EVIDENCE will I use to support this part of my argument?

Facts, statistics, photos, maps, quotes, fliers, posters, details, graphs, etc.

Subhead for this section

WHAT CHANGED & WHY?

What EVIDENCE will I use to support this part of my argument?

Facts, statistics, photos, maps, quotes, fliers, posters, details, graphs, etc.

WHAT ARE THE LONG-TERM EFFECTS?

CONCLUSION: HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE *What can we learn about larger issues in history from these events?*

REVIEW YOUR ARGUMENT

- Do you have enough evidence for each point to make a persuasive claim? Do you still need to find more sources?
 - Are you using a mix of different kinds of evidence throughout the project?
- Do your claims make an effective case for your thesis? Do they lead to your conclusion?