

NHD PACKET: Pre-Research

Objective: to produce an annotated bibliography for your NHD project.

No good project makes an unsupported claim. What we are looking for is information. This information will lay the foundation for your project.

STEP 1: Identify a Controversial Issue and Establish Compelling Sub-Questions

Look at your NHD Topic Summary. Is there one event or issue that seems to define or shape your topic? What debatable questions exist for your topic? How will you figure that out?

What ARE compelling questions?

1. Questions that we ask about topics or events.
2. Open to different interpretations or opinions.
3. Have multiple possible answers.
4. Tell who, why, or how something happened or should happen.
5. Make a claim that is backed by facts and evidence.

What types of questions ARE NOT compelling?

1. Questions that have clear answers.
2. Questions that are obvious.
3. Questions that describe, define, and show processes.

Examples of Compelling Questions:

1. Was the Revolutionary War revolutionary?
2. How should countries address climate change?
3. Who really won the Civil War?
4. Is war ever justifiable?
5. How has the Transcontinental Railroad changed over time?

For example:

Topic	Event or Issue	Compelling Question
Sojourner Truth	Women's Rights	Was Truth a powerful advocate for women?
Compelling Question	Sub-Questions	
Was Truth A powerful advocate for women?	What did she do?	
	How was it received in it's time?	
	What enduring impact did it have?	

Now, identify your topic, event, and critical questions.

Topic	Event or Issue	Essential Question
Compelling Question	Sub-Questions	

STEP 2: Theme Connection

Look at your event and question. How do these relate to the theme? Connect your question to this narrower topic selection.

Make an example with your class...

Issue	Theme Terms	Connection
Was she a powerful advocate for women?		

Now, identify the connections between your topic and the theme. You need to find at least two.

Issue	Theme Terms	Connection

Step 3: Research

You need to find sources from multiple perspectives that answer your three sub-questions.

Look for sources from these resources:

- JSTOR
 - <https://sites.google.com/sau45.org/madatabases/home>
- Digital Public Library
 - <https://dp.la/>
- Digital History
 - <http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/>
 - Only use the "Overview" and "Textbook" articles.
- Gilder Lehrman Institute
 - <https://www.gilderlehrman.org/community/user>
 - User: kbeckert
 - Password: Moultonborough
- Library of Congress
 - www.loc.gov
- Newspapers:
 - Topics before 1922:
 - <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>
 - Topics after 1922:
 - <http://www.nytimes.com/ref/membercenter/nytarchive.html>

In total, you should have 15-25 sources at the end of your research. That is 2-4 sources per day. Some of your annotations can be brief, while others should be more in depth and that is determined by YOU, based on how helpful the source is for your research. At minimum, you should have:

- 8 document analysis sheets and long form citations
- the remainder can be short form citations
 - Who wrote this and why are they credible?
 - What did you learn from this source? Be explicit.
 - How will you use this source in your project?

YOU NEED TO WORK AT HOME IF YOU DON'T FINISH!

Don't forget citation formatting! Here's the basic Chicago style:

Author Last Name, Author First Name. "Title." Journal, Website Name or Database.
Date Published. Last modified date. Link if applicable.