

INTRODUCTION (single-paragraph)

Tell the whole story in 1-3 sentences = your thesis statement!

Introduce your topic – Say what you’re going to say, and have a hook!

Theme = What do you want the audience to know, understand, believe, or feel?

Be clear about how your topic relates to the History Day theme.

BODY (multi-Paragraphs)

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 individual 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/website:

Write more—between 1500 and 2500 words total. 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. Websites should add color, graphics, music, video, and/or interactive pieces.

For an exhibit:

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.

CONCLUSION (single-paragraph)

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.