SOCIAL STUDIES FAIR TOPICS FOR STUDENTS

"REVOLUTION, REACTION, REFORM IN HISTORY"

Every year the Social Studies Fair frames students' research within a historical theme. The theme is chosen by the National History Day (NHD) Foundation for the broad application to world, national, state, and local history and its relevance from ancient history to the more recent past.
This year's theme is "***REVOLUTION, REACTION, REFORM IN HISTORY***".

The intentional selection of the theme for NHD is to provide an opportunity for students to push aside the antiquated view of history as mere facts and dates and delve deeper into historical content to develop perspective and understanding.

A listing of sample topics is not available. This will provide students a greater ability to determine how this year's theme relates to a broader concept. Please review the information in this packet to help guide students in choosing a topic related to this year's theme.

HELP STUDENTS FIND A TOPIC THAT INSPIRES THEM

When picking topics, students must make certain they fit the annual theme. It is also incredibly important that students are interested in what they are researching. Choosing something they are excited to explore and learn more about will motivate students, allowing them to take ownership over something they care about and want to share with an audience.

Topics should not be too broad and instead should have a narrow focus that allows students to do in-depth research. For example, if your student is interested in aviation, he or she could narrow down the topic to a specific event such as the first flight of the Wright Brothers (1903) or Amelia Earhart's solo trans-Atlantic flight (1937).

Once your students have selected their topics, they should develop guiding questions to get their research process started.

Each student then develops an argument based on the topic and provide a clear thesis statement that captures his or her position on the topic and is supported by wide research. If students are stuck selecting a topic, direct them to the partner resource page (nhd.org/partnerresources) as a place to start their search for a topic.

The first question that comes to mind is, "Do students have to focus on all three words—revolution, reaction, reform?" No, students do not have to focus on all three aspects of the theme. It depends on the topic. If the topic involves all three, then students should be sure to include all three.