

# HISTORY EXIT PROJECT

## TIMELINE



## WHY THIS TOPIC INTERESTS YOU

Preparing this exit project will give you the chance to **reflect** on an historic event that interests you. In the **INTRODUCTION** it would be a good idea to explain why you selected this topic.

Think carefully about what this period in history means to you—what you have learned about our nation—then express your thoughts and describe your feelings to the reader.

For example, **Pearl Harbor** might make you think about America's response to being attacked by another country. Examining the **Holocaust** may cause you to think about the courage displayed by people who are the targets of violence. The **Civil Rights Movement** could inspire you to think about the meaning of equal rights and how a nonviolent protest influenced our society.

**WHAT DOES THIS TOPIC MEAN TO YOU?**

## WHAT HAPPENED?

In this section you should **describe the event** and why it is important to American history.

Using **FACTS** and the **5 Ws** as your guide, tell the reader:

- **WHO** was involved;
- **WHAT** took place;
- **WHEN** the event took place;
- **WHERE** the event took place; and
- **WHY** the event is important.

This also is the section in which you should introduce the **MAIN IDEA** and **THESIS STATEMENT** of your project.

For example, if you are writing about the **Montgomery Bus Boycott**, you can describe the experiences of African Americans in the segregated South and state that the boycott was a turning point in the Civil Rights Movement. If you are writing about **Jim Crow segregation**, you can explain the Supreme Court decision in *Plessy v. Ferguson* (the term "separate but equal"), and state that Jim Crow laws caused citizens to confront racism. If your topic is **Pearl Harbor**, you can explain why the United States avoided entering World War 2, and then state that the nation's view changed after our naval base was attacked.



*"To catch the reader's attention, highlight an interesting idea or quote from the your essay here."*

## KEY IDEA OR EVENT #1

Use your project outline to help you choose a **KEY IDEA** or **EVENT**, then describe the **SUPPORTING IDEA** in this section.

For example, if you did not describe the history of **WW2** in the "What Happened?" section on Pearl Harbor, this information could be introduced here. If your paper is on the **Montgomery Bus Boycott**, one of your **supporting ideas** could be that the city's people joined together to make

the boycott successful. If you are writing about **Jim Crow segregation**, you could describe the lunch counter sit-ins by college students and the formation of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee ("SNCC").

## KEY IDEAS OR EVENTS #2-3

In these sections, describe other ideas or events that you think are important.

You should choose **supporting ideas** that build on the **main idea** and **thesis statement** presented. For example, if you began your essay on the **Montgomery Bus Boycott** by describing the unity of the black citizens, you could focus on the role played by leaders to bring people together—including the emergence of a young minister

named Martin Luther King, Jr.. This approach would give your presentation a "**Cause-and-Effect**" dimension since the boycott was the event that placed Dr. King in the spotlight.

You also could choose to examine a new **supporting idea** in one of these sections. For example, after describing **WW2** in Section #1 of your essay on **Pearl Harbor**, you could explain how airplanes changed warfare in Sections #2 or 3.

## DRAWING CONCLUSIONS

After you have presented three **key ideas** or **events**, use this section to introduce your final point. **Draw conclusions** about the events you have described and explain how these support the **main idea** and **thesis statement** of your paper.

For example, if the thesis statement of your paper is that "**Jim Crow segregation inspired people to take a stand against racism**," you could conclude by explaining how the Civil Rights Movement changed laws and the lives of African Americans.

## ANALYZE AN IMAGE

Find an **image**—a photograph, painting/drawing, graphic, or political cartoon—that tells a story about your topic. Next, describe the image using your own words:

- Explain the picture's meaning. What is happening in the photograph, drawing, or political cartoon?
- Describe why this image is important. What lesson can be learned from this illustration?
- Explain how the image influenced your understanding of the historic event.
- Write a few sentences that **reflect** on images and history. Do you think that art influences historic events and

political decisions? How does the image selected support your argument?

- Write a **caption** and place it beneath the image. **DO NOT FORGET** to include the name of the artist and, if possible, the publication in which the image appeared. (The name of the artist should appear beneath the image and above the caption.)



*Present a caption that describes the picture, graphic, or political cartoon.*

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*To catch the reader's attention, place an interesting sentence or quote here.*

## FOCUS ON AN HISTORIC FIGURE

Choose one person who was important to the historic period that you are describing and prepare a brief **biography** about this person and his/her influence.

- The person does not have to be someone whose role in history you admire. For example, you may decide to write about Adolf Hitler for your presentation on **WW2**.
- Describe how the person became involved in the historic event. For example, why did Martin Luther King, Jr. choose to become involved in the **Montgomery Bus Boycott**?

- What challenges did this person face?
- How was this person viewed by others during the historic period?
- How did this person change history?

You may want to focus on a group of people instead of upon a single individual. For example, the experiences of Japanese Americans after the bombing of Pearl Harbor tells an important story about how WW2 changed life in the United States. The people who walked, created car pools, and took taxis to work and school for a year

made the **Montgomery Bus Boycott** a success.

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*Who were the people who made this historic event important?*

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I hope that this outline gives you some ideas on how to approach your research project and its visual presentation. Feel free to take a different approach—like creating a play or slideshow—if that is the project of your dreams. Enjoy the treasure hunt!

Sharon