

History Fair Project Steps – Deadlines in parentheses are a guideline

- I. Select a topic (Fri/Sat/Sun. Oct. 21, 22, 23)**
 - A. Choose something you love
- II. Find resources (Fri./Sat./Sun./ Oct.21, 22, 23)**
 - A. Books, Magazine Articles, Radio Programs
 1. Choose at least three at your reading level
 2. Easy and difficult books are useful, as well – especially if they contain useful maps, diagrams, drawings, etc.
 - B. Internet
 1. Be careful – not everything is verified
 - C. Interviews
 1. Tape record, if possible
- III. Read and Develop a Thesis (Oct. 24 - Nov. 4)**
 - A. Begin with an encyclopedia article for a general overview of your topic
 - B. Read until you become an "expert" on your topic
 - C. Decide on your thesis – this will help you narrow you topic and give direction to the research.
 1. A thesis is your opinion or idea about your topic, something you want to prove or disprove.
 2. Look for supporting facts to prove your thesis.
- IV. Take notes (Oct. 24 - Nov.4)**
 - A. Every time you find information that you think will be useful, create a note card using a keyword and a page number
- V. Outline**
 - A. Organize your note cards – sorting them into groups of related ideas.
 - B. These will become your main topic headings for your outline.
- VI. Rough Draft (Mon,Nov.7)**
 - A. Use the outline to write your rough draft
 - B. Include an introductory paragraph, ending with your thesis statement
 - C. Next write the body of the paper. Each paragraph should develop a point to support your thesis
 - D. Write a concluding paragraph in which you rephrase your thesis. This should relate back to the introductory paragraph.
 - E. Include a bibliography
- VII. Edit (Tues./Wed./Thur. Nov.8, 9, 10)**
 - A. Edit as much as you can yourself
 - B. Teachers, parents, and peers can also edit

- C. Edit for mechanics like spelling, punctuation, grammar, and paragraphing.
- D. Edit for flow, logic, and organization
- VIII. Final Draft (Thursday, Nov. 10 - Friday, Nov.11)**
 - A. Type, or
 - B. Legible handwriting
 - C. Put report in a protective folder
- IX. Display Board (Week of Nov. 14 - 18)**
 - A. Be creative, your own drawings are more impressive than something printed from the internet
 - B. Clean, clear, neat
 - C. Use another medium, if more appropriate, for example, a 3D model, video tape, audio tape, photo essay
- X. Oral Presentation (Sat/Sun, Nov. 19, 20)**
 - A. Use note cards or memorize your speech.
 - B. Do not read, as it is boring and unfair to your audience.
 - C. Speak loud enough for your audience to hear.
 - D. Dress appropriately.
 - E. Practice in front of friends or relatives.

Check off each step as you finish. This year you will be presenting your project to your class on Monday, November 21. Projects will be displayed from the 21st to the 23rd and will go home on Wednesday, November 23rd.