

National History Day Research Strategy Worksheet

Name: _____

My Topic in a few words: _____

- **What is my topic statement?** Try and state it as a question to be answered.
Example: *"How did the development of sign language change the lives of deaf people and their place in American society?"*
- What **YEARS** did the event take place in? This helps you decide where to look for information. **Hint:** It's not enough to put down "World War II". You need to know the specific years in which World War II took place.
 - If you don't know, **where will you search** to find this information?
- What **type of communication** does this involve? Spoken? Written? Body language? Some sort of symbol or other means?
- What are some **OTHER WORDS** people use for this event?
- If I am finding **TOO MUCH information**, what are some words that are more specific for my event?
- If I am finding **TOO LITTLE information**, why might that be? Am I looking in the wrong place? Am I using the wrong words to describe my event? Do I need to be searching under the name of something bigger that my event was part of?

- **Who** might be collecting the information on my event—and **why**? Was anybody required to? Or was it something that people were trying to keep secret?
- **What are the questions I am asking**, and looking to answer in order to understand and **explain the role and significance of my event** in communications and history?
- What kinds of **primary sources** might there be on my topic and where will I look for them?
- If I need **background information** and **secondary sources** to understand more about my topic, where will I look for that?
- What **search words** have I tried? What worked and what didn't? Where have I already looked?
- Other hints and tips: