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: