



Turning Points in History

The theme for National History Day in 2024 is all about exploring how something important, like an idea, event, or action, caused a big change in society and culture.

As you pick your topic, think about events, ideas, or actions that made a really big difference in your local community or the whole country's history.

MAKE IT ABOUT CHOICE

A turning point is when something big happens in history because someone or a group of people made a choice that changed how things were before. It could be about politics, a new law, a protest, a cool idea, or even a natural disaster.

Once a turning point happens, we can't go back to how things were before.

MAKE IT ABOUT PERSPECTIVES

Turning points in history affect people in different ways. When we study these events, we need to look at how they changed things for everyone. Did everyone feel the same about it? Some people might have been happy, while others might have felt bad because of the turning point.

Historians help us decide which events are turning points. As time goes by, we learn more about these events and get a better understanding. When we look at different perspectives and study documents from that time, we can see how the turning point affected all kinds of people in society.

The turning point can change people's lives. But did it change everyone's life in the same way? Did it make some people more powerful and others less powerful? We need to explore these questions to understand the full impact of the turning point.

MAKE IT ABOUT CHANGE

A turning point in history means something big happens that changes how things go for the people who were there. When something important happens in history, historians study it to see how it affected everything. If it had a really big effect and made things different from before, it becomes a turning point.

To understand it better, pick a topic that happened at least 20 years ago. This way, you can see how it changed things right away and also how it kept affecting stuff for a long time.

MAKE IT CONNECT

Here are areas to focus on when you do your research:

1. Background research: What events or things led up to this big moment?
2. Contextualization: Think about the people who were involved in the turning point. How did their thoughts, feelings, or goals change to make this important event happen?
3. Significance: Show how things immediately and over time shifted after the turning point. Use sources to make your point.

By exploring these three areas, you'll be able to make a strong case for why your topic is a turning point in history. Have fun with your research!

The Way Things Were

Ideas, technology, culture, and understanding before the turning point.



Turning Point

New motivation, understanding, conflict, innovation



Shifted History

The significant ways in which life or society changed.

