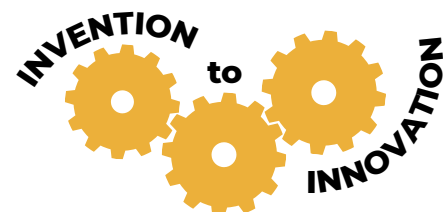


The 2027 National History Day theme asks students to consider how invention and new ideas resulted in changes that impacted or transformed society and culture. As you choose your topic for this year, think about significant shifts that happen when there is change. Ask yourself what was the change and how did this change impact people, society, and history?

An innovation is what changed because of what someone made or a new way of thinking. Historians study what happened because of those changes.



INVENTION/NEW IDEA

A solution to a problem that has the potential to create change.

INNOVATION

A new idea that transforms how society works.

What was the problem the innovation addressed? This historical context will help you understand the change and the size of the impact. How did a new innovation or discovery change lives of people? Did all people benefit in the same ways? Did the new knowledge create a shift in power? Did some people gain power while others did not?

IMPACT

Includes the short-term and long term intended benefits and unintended side effects.

INFLUENCE

The ability of the innovation to spread. How it changed people's thinking.

CHANGE

Proof showing society could never go back to the way it was before.

By using impact, influence, and change as analytical lenses, historians can measure an event's historical significance and prove how it altered history. Look at your potential NHD topic. Start by writing one sentence explaining how your topic changed the "rules of the game" for society. Why can we not go back to the way things were before your topic existed?

By choosing a topic that is at least 20 years old, you will be able to more easily see both the short-term impacts and long-term changes.

What problem or need drove this innovation. How did necessity help create the new idea or technology?

How did people feel about the innovation at the time? Did everyone feel the same way?

Who benefited and who did not? Which groups of people benefitted and which groups did not?

How did the innovation change lives and society in the short-term? What were the immediate effects?

What was the legacy of the innovation? What changes could not be reversed.

How does the innovation connect to modern technology, thoughts, or social structures?

**GUIDING
QUESTIONS**