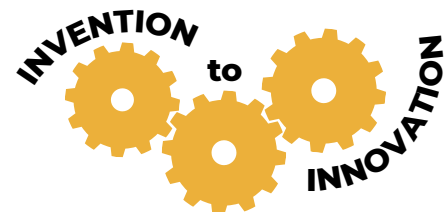


“Innovation in History: Impact, Influence, Change”

The 2027 History Day theme asks students to think about how inventions and new ideas changed society. As you choose your topic, think about the big shifts that happen when something changes. Ask yourself: What changed? How did that change affect people, society, and history?

An innovation is a change that happens because someone invented something new, or thought of a new way of doing things. Historians study the effects of these changes.



INVENTION/NEW IDEA

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

INNOVATION

A new idea that changes how society works.

What problem was the innovation trying to solve? Understanding this will help you see the size of its impact. How did the new innovation change people's lives? Did everyone benefit in the same way? Did the new idea shift power — did some people gain power while others did not?

IMPACT

The short-term and long-term effects of the innovation, including benefits that were intended and effects that were not.

INFLUENCE

How far the innovation spread, and how it changed the way people thought.

CHANGE

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

Historians use impact, influence, and change to measure how important an event was in history. Look at your potential NHD topic. Write 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?

Choose a topic that is at least 20 years old. This makes it easier to see both the short-term impacts and the long-term changes.

What problem or need led to this innovation. How did that need 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 people's lives in the short-term? What were the immediate effects?

What was innovation's legacy? What changes could not be undone?

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

GUIDING QUESTIONS