

PLANNING YOUR PERFORMANCE

Performances are the most creative History Day category. It's impossible to give you a formula for a Performance. They can take many different formats and will vary based on the number of people, characters, scenarios, and topic. Below are two tools to help you begin brainstorming your Performance. Keep in mind that these are not the only successful approaches to the Performance category—just a place to get started. Be creative!

DRAFTING YOUR SCRIPT	
What	Key Questions and Elements
Intro (1 minute)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set the scene. Who are you? When is this taking place? Where are you? Introduce your thesis
Historical Context/ Background (2 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What happened before your topic to influence it? Were there other movements, people, or ideas that influenced it? What events led up to the topic?
Heart of Story (3 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key events and issues related to your topic
Short and Long-Term Impact (3 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What were the immediate outcomes of your topic? What has been the long-term significance of your topic in history?
Conclusion/ Wrap-Up (1 minute)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reinforce your thesis. Conclude your character's actions.

SCENARIO BRAINSTORM	
Brainstorm at least two different scenarios, using different characters in each. Which one is the best approach for presenting your ideas?	
Scenario #1	
Character(s) (historical figures, composite characters, narrators):	
Setting:	
Timeframe:	
Describe What Happens:	

Scenario #2	
Character(s) (historical figures, composite characters, narrators):	
Setting:	
Timeframe:	
Describe What Happens:	

What Would Your Characters Know?

When selecting characters for your Performance, it's important to think about what they would or wouldn't know. If your character is Abraham Lincoln, it's impossible for him to know what happened in 1870 because he was assassinated in 1865. Try selecting a different character—maybe someone who wasn't a major player. This could give you the chance to take a step back and discuss your topic's significance in history in a different way. Instead of Abraham Lincoln, consider being one of his advisors or aides who lived after his death. This would give you a more long-term perspective on Lincoln's presidency.