

Name: _____

Class: _____

What Makes a Good Topic?

Keep in mind the following guidelines as you pick a topic. Based on what you know about your topic, use the prompts in the left column to make notes about your topic in the right column.

My topic is: _____

| General Guidelines | My Topic |
|--|-------------------------|
| You should care about your topic. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Why do you want to learn about this topic?• What do you know about this area of history already?• What are three questions you have about this topic that you don't already know the answer to?• What aspects of this topic inspire you to learn more? | <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> |
| Your topic must connect to the theme. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How does your topic relate to "Frontiers in History: People, Places, Ideas"?• What is your frontier?• How did different groups or sides view the frontier? | <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> |
| Resources are available about this topic. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What kinds of resources are available?• What kinds of primary sources have you found, or can you think of for your topic?• Where might you find more information?• How do you plan to conduct your research? | <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> |
| Your topic should be at least 20 years old. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How long ago did your topic happen?• Do you know what happened before your topic?• Do you know what happened as a result of your topic? | <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> |
| Your topic is important in history. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Why do we remember this topic?• What changed because of this topic?• Why do you think this topic is important?• What is the topic's significance in history? | <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> |

**** REMEMBER, your topic needs to be narrow (specific). If it is too broad, you cannot cover all of the information in your project. ****