

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
<b>You should care about your topic.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Why do you want to learn about this topic?</li><li>• Do you know a lot about this area of history already?</li><li>• What are three questions you have about this topic that you don't already know the answer to?</li></ul>	
<b>Your topic must connect to the theme.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How does your topic relate to "Communication in History: The Key to Understanding?"</li><li>• What is being communicated?</li><li>• Is there a new understanding because of your topic?</li><li>• Is there more than one message being communicated?</li></ul>	
<b>Resources are available about this topic.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Do you know what primary and secondary sources are available about your topic?</li><li>• Where might you find more information?</li><li>• How do you plan to conduct your research?</li></ul>	
<b>Your topic should be at least 20 years old.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How long ago did your topic happen?</li><li>• Do you know what happened before your topic?</li><li>• Do you know what happened after your topic?</li></ul>	
<b>Your topic is important in history.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Why do we remember this topic?</i></li><li>• <i>What changed because of this topic?</i></li><li>• <i>Why do you think this topic is important?</i></li></ul>	