

Name:

Class:

Worksheet: Research Question Starters

The sentence starters below can help you to write your own research questions. Starting questions are in each box. Pick the questions that fit the best - and edit them to make them specific to your topic. It's okay to start with only a few of the questions in each box.

As you research, look for new questions you can ask to help you dig deeper. Record those new questions on this worksheet, too.

Beginning Questions: Use these to learn more about the five "W's" of your topic.

When did my topic happen?
Where did my topic happen?
What is the "main event" of my topic? What happened in my topic?
Who was involved in my topic?
Why did my topic happen? What caused it?

Theme Questions: The theme will help you to focus your research! Think about the theme early in your History day journey. It will help guide your research and make a strong connection between your topic and "Debate and Diplomacy in History: Successes, Failures, Consequences."

How does my topic connect to "debate"?

- What was the central issue, problem, or concern?
- How did different sides view the issue?
- How did different sides express their opinions and challenge each other?

How does my topic connect to "diplomacy"?

- Did two or more sides try to resolve their differences through peaceful decision making?
- What groups were left out of decision making processes?
- Did opposing sides reach an agreement?

What are the "successes, failures, consequences" of my topic?

- What impact did diplomacy, or a lack of diplomacy, have on the debate?
- What intended and unintended consequences happened as a result?
- Was the debate resolved, does it continue, or did new debates arise?
- What impact did decisions have on groups that were excluded from the process?

Digging Deeper Questions: Write here the questions that come up for you as you research answers to the "Beginning Questions" and "Theme Questions." For example, in researching the Montgomery Bus Boycott, a "digging deeper" question might be "What inspired people to keep boycotting for over a year?"