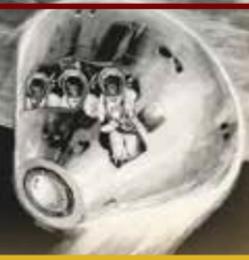


Tackling the Theme:



“Triumph & Tragedy in History” National History Day 2019

The 2019 theme, “Triumph & Tragedy in History,” offers the opportunity to explore many topics and time periods from local, national, and world history. The most important thing when considering the topic for your National History Day project is to choose a topic that interests you! You will be putting a lot of time and effort into your project and it will be much easier to stay interested if you are passionate about the subject.

Begin by considering what you think a triumph or tragedy means. Can an event be both a triumph and a tragedy for different individuals or groups? Might a single event be both a triumph and a tragedy for the same individual or group? Can triumph eventually lead to tragedy or vice versa? Use the **4Ts worksheet** (<https://tinyurl.com/OKHistoryDay19>) to test a sample topic and see if it would make a good History Day project!

Although you might initially be drawn to large scale triumphs (military victories, important inventions, etc.) and tragedies (the Trail of Tears, the Spanish Influenza, etc.), think outside the box and focus on examining a triumph or tragedy that is not as well-known. Investigating a lesser-known topic or an Oklahoma history topic will make a more fascinating, captivating, and competitive entry!

When you first begin considering a topic, start big: What time period or area interests you the most? Focus on a specific triumph or tragedy that occurred in this setting: Is there a specific event that you have always wanted to learn more about? Narrow your topic further: Is there a historical group or figure that was crucial to the triumph or tragedy?

Once you have selected a topic, the next step is to create a thesis, or main idea, for your project. For example, if your topic is Women’s Suffrage, a sample thesis statement would be: The Woman’s Christian Temperance Union of Oklahoma Territory fought for the right to vote in school board elections in 1890, an issue that eventually led to the triumph of women earning the right to vote.

Check out our website,

<http://www.okhistory.org/historycenter/historyday>,
for more resources to help you with your project!