# National History Day
## Advanced Research: Primary Sources and Historical POV

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First</th>
<th>Second</th>
<th>Third</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Identifying Primary Sources</td>
<td>Thinking Like a Historian</td>
<td>Historical Significance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Research Description
- Analyzing primary sources will help you to draw your own conclusions about the significance of your topic and its connection to the theme.
- Historians interpret the past by looking at events and turning points through historic lenses. They use these lenses to better understand the way turning points affected people in different ways.
- A thorough understanding of historical contest, turning point, historical debates, primary sources, and historic lenses will enable you to show your topic’s significance in history. You will argue this significance with a thesis statement.

### Types of sources
- **Letters, Diaries, Telegraph Messages**
- **Government Documents and Legal Cases**
- **Photos, Moving Footage, Newsreels, Speeches**
- **Documents that illustrate cultural impact, economic impact, religious impact, political impact, social impact**
- **Legal cases that use your topic as a reference.**
- **New laws that can be traced back to your topic**
- **A continuing debate that is based on your topic**
- **Foreign or domestic policy that changed because of your topic**

### Questions
- Who is the author?
- What is their point of view?
- How is this person involved?
- Does the information conflict with or agree with the secondary sources?
- What other information do you need to answer your questions?
- How did your topic influence society as a whole?
- Were any members of society impacted more or less than others?
- What was gained or lost because of your topic?
- What are the immediate and long-term impacts of your topic?
- How does this significance continue to matter today?
- What argument can you make that connects the historical significance to the theme?
- What is the “so what” that you want your audience to know about your conclusions?
- Why does this matter?