

Tackling the Theme: “Conflict and Compromise” National History Day 2018

The 2018 theme, “Conflict & Compromise in History,” encompasses many topics and time periods from local, national, and world history. So pick a topic that interests you! You will be putting a lot of time and effort into this project and it will be so much easier if you have a passion for the subject.

Begin by challenging your notions about what a conflict or compromise means. Are there compromises that caused conflicts? Do compromises always last for a long time? If groups or individuals fail to reach a compromise does it always lead to conflict? Use the **4Cs worksheet** to try out sample topics and see if they would make a good History Day project!

While large scale conflicts (wars, national protests, etc.) and compromises (UN Declaration for Human Rights, Treaty of Paris, etc.) immediately spring to mind, think outside the box and focus on illuminating a conflict or compromise that is not as well known to the public. Highlighting a lesser known topic will make a more interesting, intriguing, and competitive entry!

Start big: What time period or area interests you most? Focus on a specific conflict or compromise of the time period: Is there a specific incident that you have always wanted to learn more about? Narrow your topic further: Is there a historical group or figure who were crucial to the conflict or compromise?

For example, say you are interested in women’s history, specifically women’s suffrage. Narrow your focus regionally or locally. Did your city or town have a suffragette or anti-suffrage group? What were the motivations of each group? Identify key figures and methods. Were there specific individuals who led the group and how did the group promote its message?

Once you’ve selected a topic, you need to create a thesis or main idea for your project. Use the **thesis development worksheet** to craft a thesis statement. Following our women’s suffrage example, a sample thesis statement would be: The Woman’s Christian Temperance Union of Oklahoma Territory fought for the right to vote in school elections in 1890, a conflict that led to the compromise of allowing women to vote.

Check out our website, www.okhistory.org/historycenter/historyday?full, for more resources to help with your project!

2018 National History Day® Theme
4C's Graphic Organizer

Topic _____
Conflict & Compromise in History

<p>Context Little c Context <i>What historical events influenced the topic locally during time period?</i></p>	<p>Big C Context <i>What historical events influenced the topic nationally or globally?</i></p>	<p><i>Describe a conflict in history. What impact did this conflict have?</i></p> <p>Conflict</p>
<p>Compromise</p>	<p><i>Describe a compromise in history. What influence or impact did this compromise have?</i></p> <p>Long Term Change <i>What changes occurred over time?</i></p> <div data-bbox="1172 56 1485 476"> <p>Short Term <i>What immediate changes occurred?</i></p> <p>Change</p> </div>	