History Day Topic Information Worksheet

Before you start looking for primary sources related to your History Day research topic you need to know some basic information. You can usually find this information in an encyclopedia (including Wikipedia). This basic information will help you determine which primary sources you should use and what search terms you should use. As you do research you will come across additional information that you can add to this worksheet.

1. My History Day Topic & How It Relates to the Theme:

Example: William Lloyd Garrison and taking a stand against slavery through his newspaper The Liberator

2. Key People:

Example: William Lloyd Garrison, Benjamin Lundy, Frederick Douglass

3. Key Organizations:

Example: American Anti-Slavery Society, The Liberator (newspaper), American Colonization Society

4. Key Dates:

Example: 1830s-1860

5. Key Places:

Example: Baltimore, Boston, New England, United States

6. Subject Keywords (words that describe your topic):

Example: abolitionism, anti-slavery, slavery

7. Primary Sources: What kinds might be useful for your topic?

☐ Newspapers  ☐ Diaries, Letters & Memoirs
☐ Magazines  ☐ Statistical & Census Data
☐ Films & Documentaries  ☐ Art & Music
☐ Government Reports  ☐ Photographs & Images
☐ Oral Histories & Interviews  ☐ Other:
☐ Books written at the time