



PERFORMANCE ORGANIZATION

There is no formula for a performance. They can include one or many characters. Performances can include one or many scenes.

The one constant is that each performance should include a thesis. All information that is included in a performance needs to connect to and support the thesis, or your historical argument.

The Idea Map shows you key questions that your project should answer. You should include information pertaining to the before, during, and after the main events of your topic.

Unlike an exhibit, a Performance will be creative with how this information is communicated to the audience. For example:

- A scene could combine information you have in both the short- and long-term.
- A scene could be focused on the Heart of the Story but have flashbacks to events that happened in the Build Up or Background.

Once you have outlined the information you want to include in your Performance, you can begin to brainstorm scenes and characters for your performance.

Background or Long Before the Event

- What background information does your reader need to know about your topic?
- What events, ideas, or people came before and influenced your topic?
- What was going on in the world?

Thesis

Short-Term Impact or Right After the Event

- What are some things that changed right away?
- Think about positive and negative changes.
- How did this event impact different groups of people?
- What were the reactions to the event? Be sure to think about different points of view.

Build-Up or Right Before the Event

- Who are the main players?
- What are they doing to get ready for the main events of your topic?
- What events or ideas led up to the main event?
- What was life like at this time?

Heart of the Story or During the Event

Look for the 5W's and an H:

- What happened?
- How did it happen?
- When did it happen?
- Why did it happen?
- Who was involved or affected?
- Where did it happen?

Long-Term Impact or Long After the Event

- So what?
- Why is your topic important in history?
- How has your topic changed history?
- Why is the event still important today?



PLANNING YOUR PERFORMANCE

Use the blank Performance Idea Map to brainstorm the information your audience will need to understand your topic.

- **Step 1:** Start with the **Heart of the Story** and describe what happened.
- **Step 2:** Next, think about what **happened right before the event**. What sparked the main events of your topic?
- **Step 3:** Set your topic into larger historical context. What **background** information does your reader need to know?
- **Step 4:** Think about what happened **right after the main event**, or the short-term impact. What were the reactions to it?
- **Step 5:** Lastly, think about the legacy, or long-term impact of your topic.

Once you know the content you need to cover in your performance, you can begin to brainstorm scenes and characters for your performance.

