

WORKSHEET: PLANNING YOUR PERFORMANCE

By their very nature, performances are the most creative History Day category. It's impossible to give you a formula for a successful performance. They can take many different formats and will vary based on the number of people, characters, scenarios, and topic. Below are two tools to help you begin brainstorming your performance. Keep in mind that these are not the only successful approaches to the performance category – just a place to get started. Be creative!

DRAFTING YOUR SCRIPT	
What	Key Questions and Elements
Intro (1 minute)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set the scene. • Who are you? When is this taking place? Where are you? • Introduce your thesis.
Historical Context/ Background (2 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What happened before your topic to influence it? • Were there other movements, people, or ideas that influenced it? • What events led up to the topic?
Heart of Story (3 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key events and issues related to your topic.
Short and Long-term Impacts (3 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the immediate outcomes of your topic? • What has been the long-term significance of your topic in history?
Conclusion/ Wrap-up (1 minute)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reinforce your thesis. • Conclude your characters actions.

SCENARIO BRAINSTORM
Brainstorm at least two different scenarios using different characters in each. Which one is the best approach for presenting your ideas?
Scenario 1
Character(s) (historical figures, composite characters, narrators): _____
Setting: _____
Timeframe: _____
Describe Scenario: _____ _____ _____ _____
Scenario 2
Character(s) (historical figures, composite characters, narrators): _____
Setting: _____
Timeframe: _____
Describe Scenario: _____ _____ _____ _____

What Would Your Character Know?

When selecting characters for your performance, think about what they would or wouldn't know. If your character is Abraham Lincoln, it's impossible for him to know what happened in 1870 because he was assassinated in 1865. Sometimes selecting a different character – maybe someone who wasn't a major player – gives you the chance to take a step back and discuss your topic's significance in history in a different way. Instead of Abraham Lincoln, one of his advisors or aides who lived after his death would give you a more long-term perspective on Lincoln's presidency.