

Creating a Dramatic Performance

A performance is a dramatic portrayal of your topic's significance in history and must be an original production. Performances may not exceed 10 minutes. You must write, block, costume and perform the whole of the production. Entries in this category must have dramatic appeal, but not at the expense of historical information.

Title A _____ _____ _____ <p style="text-align: center;">Background/Context</p> Title B _____ _____ _____ <p style="text-align: center;">Antecedents: Events immediately prior to event</p>	Thesis <p style="text-align: center;">Heart of the Story</p>	Title C _____ _____ _____ <p style="text-align: center;">Precedents created; immediate effects</p> Title D _____ _____ _____ <p style="text-align: center;">Conclusions: Significance in History</p>
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Items to be completed/Process:

- Prepare a script. Brainstorm about general ideas and the ways they might be presented. If a group is performing, each member should describe different ways that the characters might interact. When writing the script, make sure it contains references to the historical evidence found in the research. Using actual dialogue, quotations or excerpts from speeches are good ways of putting historical detail into the performance. Remember that the script should center on the **thesis statement, supporting statements and the conclusion.**
- Be careful not to simply present oral reports on individuals which begin when they were born and end when they died. Instead, become the historical figure and write a script around an important time or place that will explain the major ideas.
- Prepare the set. Think about different types of sets which might help in depicting the topic. Is there a prop that is central to the story? Don't get carried away with props-simplify!
- Prepare the blocking. To block a performance is to determine where the actors will stand, move, and/or relate to the set. Students should think about these movements when deciding what type of set to design. Simplify
- Practice, practice, practice!

<http://www.nhd.org/Contest.htm>