

Name: _____

Date: _____

Choose a Topic

Step 1: Brainstorm at least 8 possible topics for your Heritage Fair project using a list or brainstorming web.

Step 2: Look over your list/web and choose 3 topics to look at more carefully.

Step 3: Examine your 3 choices using the criteria in the chart below. Rate your choices 1-3 with 3 being the highest rank for each criteria included in the chart and then add up your points for each choice.

Criteria	Choice A	Choice B	Choice C
Does it have a Canadian theme?			
Is it important or significant in the history of your family or your community or Nova Scotia or Canada?			
Will you be able to find lots of information about the topic from more than one source (e.g. library, internet, a primary source such as a real person, artefact, letter, diary, newspaper, etc.)?			
Will you be able to find pictures, costumes, maps, etc. or be able to make something (model, artwork) that will help you explain your research to other people?			
Will you be able to go beyond the facts with this topic? e.g. be able to make a comparison, draw conclusions and/or explain why your topic is significant?			
Total Points			

Step 4: If you have 1 or more choices with equal value add one or more criteria to the list to break the tie and help you choose the most appropriate topic.

Step 5: Reflect on your choice by answering the following questions.

1. Are you happy with this choice? Why or why not?
2. If you decide to choose a different topic, explain why you are doing so.

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Research Organizer

Information about the Source (complete one organizer for each source).

Inquiry Question:		
What is the title of the source?	What kind of source is it? (primary, secondary, type)	Where can I find this source again in case I need to find it again or want to list it as one of my sources?
Who created this source? What is the point of view and/or main idea expressed in this source?		
How will it help me answer my inquiry question? What evidence does it provide that I can use to back up my conclusions?	What useful background information (if any) does this source give me? The key points are:	
How does this source support what I already know about my topic?	What questions do I still have?	
How can I organize the information I have found most effectively in my final communication? e.g. text, as is with caption, chart, diagram, map, etc.	Reflection: How close am I to drawing a good conclusion about my inquiry topic? How strong is the evidence I have to support my conclusion? Where do I go from here? Do I need to make changes to my inquiry question?	

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Drawing Conclusions

Inquiry Question:

Based on the evidence I have collected what conclusion(s) have I reached about my inquiry question(s)?

Main Conclusion	Evidence
Other Conclusions (that support the main conclusion or suggest more research is needed)	Evidence
<p>Reflection:</p> <p>How well have I/we answered our inquiry question? How satisfied am I/are we that we have drawn a good conclusion about our inquiry?</p> <p>Do I/we have sufficient evidence to back up my/our conclusion(s)? If not what do I/we do next?</p> <p>My/Our Personal Perspective: Why should people today care about my/our topic? How has the inquiry changed my/our perspective of the topic?</p>	

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Communicate Findings

Your presentation/final communication should be broken down into segments or sections.

- Each section tells a different part of the story and uses a sub-title to guide the visitor through your display, video, power point, etc.
- Labels/captions add your interpretation of the secondary and primary sources and connect them to your big idea or thesis statement.

Important design elements that should be included:

Section	Criteria
Title of Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ interesting ▪ gives hints about your big idea or thesis statement (could be your inquiry question)
Introduction and Conclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ sets the context of your inquiry ▪ states the big idea or main conclusion ▪ is concise (usually one sentence) ▪ instead of a sub-title could be enclosed in a large, colourful label
Secondary Sources plus Labels (e.g. text, graphs, maps, timelines, charts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ adds interesting facts and/or data to the big idea ▪ provides background information to help the visitor understand the big idea ▪ labels give your interpretation of the text, data, timeline, etc. and explain how the secondary source adds to the story
Primary Sources (e.g. photos, letters, interviews, newspapers, artefacts, original documents)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ provides evidence to back up your conclusion(s) or thesis statement ▪ includes labels that show the connection to your conclusion(s) or thesis statement
Personal Perspective	<p>Answers questions like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Why is this topic relevant today? ▪ Why should we care about this topic?
Enhancements (models, props, costumes, computer displays)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ adds interest to your presentation ▪ does not detract from your big idea
Additional Considerations	
How will I organized my project to make sure my visitor can easily navigate through the various sections of my presentation?	
How will I use other design elements such as shape, color, use of space, font size to help add interest and understanding to my big idea?	