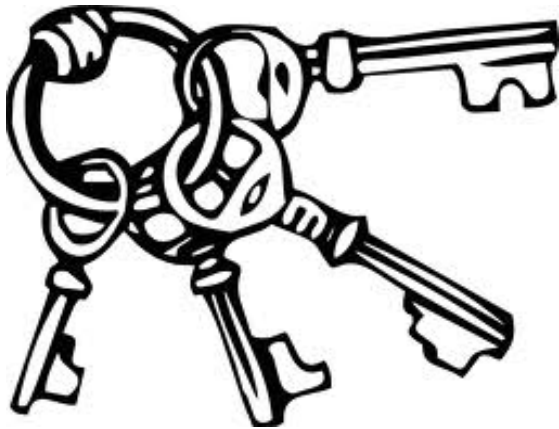


HISTORY FAIR TOPIC SELECTION SHEET

NAME, PERIOD _____



REMEMBER THE KEYS TO FINDING A TOPIC AND RESEARCH QUESTION

- **IT'S HISTORY** – It happened at least 25 years ago.
- **IT'S GOT SOURCES** – It has plenty of primary and secondary sources.
- **IT'S LOCAL** – The topic is rooted in Chicago.
- **IT'S SIGNIFICANT** – It connects to bigger themes in history.
- **IT'S GOT SOUL** – You care about it!
- **IT DEMANDS INTERPRETATION** – There's a "big idea" that you want to communicate – not just facts. Interpretation means making an argument based on evidence.

Topic Selection Sheet Adapted from **Making History: A Guide to Historical Research Through the National History Day Program** by National History Day, Jodi Vandenberg-Daves, ed. (National History Day, 2006).

1. This year's History Day theme is _____
2. I think my topic will be _____
3. I am interested in this topic because

4. This topic relates to the theme's key concepts:
Turning Point / Major Shift / New Direction _____
...by focusing on (People / Ideas/ Events) _____

5. "How" and "Why?" questions I have about my topic are
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
6. Two specific sources I might look for when researching my topic are
 - a. A secondary source explaining _____
 - b. A primary source showing _____
7. This topic is important because

