

Historical Questions of Impact

Imagine that your topic is a stone thrown into the center of a lake. The water ripples that surround your stone demonstrate the consequences or impacts of your topic. Whether your topic is a person, event, or idea, if it has historical significance, it will create change, both short-term and long-term, in the world around it. By demonstrating links between periods of time you provide your audience with historical perspective, or how one person, event, or idea has influence on the events that follow.

If your topic is a...**PERSON**

- How did [your topic]'s actions influence other people?
- How did [your topic]'s goal shift or conclude as a result of their choices?
- What were the consequences of [your topic]'s decisions and actions?
- What additional actions were caused by [your topic]'s activities?

If your topic is an...**EVENT**

- What was the public response to [your topic]?
- How did the people involved in [your topic] change as a result of their experience?
- How was [your topic] recorded in the newspaper?

If your topic is an...**IDEA**

- How did [your topic] reshape the established/accepted ideas?
- What kind of social, political, and/or cultural action did [your topic] inspire?
- Did everyone accept [your topic]? If not, how do they respond?
- How did [your topic] spread to new people and places?

