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!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DRAFTING YOUR SCRIPT</th>
<th>SCENARIO BRAINSTORM</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>What</strong></td>
<td><strong>Key Questions and Elements</strong></td>
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| **Intro**  
(1 minute) | • Set the scene.  
• Who are you? When is this taking place? Where are you?  
• Introduce your thesis. | **Scenario 1**  
Character(s) (historical figures, composite characters, narrators): |
| **Historical Context/Background**  
(2 minutes) | • 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? | Setting:  
Timeframe:  
Describe Scenario: |
| **Heart of Story**  
(3 minutes) | • Key events and issues related to your topic. | **Scenario 2**  
Character(s) (historical figures, composite characters, narrators): |
| **Short and Long-term Impacts**  
(3 minutes) | • What are the immediate outcomes of your topic?  
• What has been the long-term significance of your topic in history? | Setting:  
Timeframe:  
Describe Scenario: |
| **Conclusion/Wrap-up**  
(1 minute) | • Reinforce your thesis.  
• Conclude your characters actions. | |

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.