

Typical Questions to Ask Students

Begin by asking students an easier question that they may have already discussed with their teacher. This will build their confidence and make them more comfortable during their interview. Some examples of “icebreaker” questions are:

- ❑ Why did you choose this topic?
- ❑ Could you explain to me how your project relates to this year’s theme?
- ❑ What was your favorite primary source? Why?

Move on to more challenging questions that will prompt students to analyze their topics and relate them to broader themes in history. Examples of higher-level questions are:

- ❑ Did you find conflicting information in your sources? If so, how did you deal with this?
- ❑ When you were conducting research, what sources did you find the most valuable and why?
- ❑ How did your thesis evolve from the time that you started your research to the point when you actually started assembling your project?
- ❑ What improvements can you still make on your project?
- ❑ How did you find primary sources? Did using primary sources change any opinions you had about your topic?
- ❑ How do you think your topic influenced history?
- ❑ If the student has a topic in a content area in which you are familiar, then ask appropriate questions.