A Study in Change

Essential questions:

* What was the most momentous event of the past 100 years?
* What individual or group had the biggest impact on the world during the 20th century?

Skill developed in this assignment:

* to conduct independent research thoroughly
* to make a reasoned argument
* to develop a deeper understanding of the concept of social change

Steps to complete the assignment:

1. Choose and event **or** a change maker from the 20th century. Clear it with your teacher.
2. Conduct thorough research.
3. Complete the argument skeleton template.
4. Prepare your presentation. Your presentation may be in any format that can be shared with a small group.
5. Participate in a gallery walk where everyone will share his or her findings.

Procedure for step 1: Choosing a topic

Begin by browsing the list below, do a google search, check out Wikipedia, talk with your folks, and doing some preliminary research. Make sure you have a backup or two in case you have to change your topic for some reason. For example, once you start researching you may find that you don’t have appropriate information for your topic.

Some change makers from the past century:

**Well-known politicians** such as Barack Obama, Al Gore, Jesse Jackson, or Nelson Mandela.

**Rich philanthropists** like Bill and Melinda Gates, Warren Buffett, or Richard Branson.

**Violent Revolutionaries** like Ho Chi Minh, Fidel Castro, or Vladimir Lenin.

**Celebrities** like Steve Nash, Oprah Winfrey, or George Clooney.

**Musicians** like Zack de la Rocha, Bob Dylan, or Bono.

**Activists** like Harvey Milk, Martin Luther King, Jr, Cesar Chavez, or Rigoberta Menchu.

**Environmentalists** like Jane Goodall, Jacques Cousteau or David Suzuki.

**Humanitarians** like Craig Keilburger or Greg Mortenson.

**Religious figures** Desmond Tutu, Mother Theresa, or the Dali Lama.

**Ordinary people** like Oskar Schindler, Paul Rusesabagina, or Rosa Parks who unwittingly became symbols of a cause.

**Feminist** like Nellie McClung, Betty Freidan, or Gloria Steinem.

**Important Canadians** like Tommy Douglas, Romeo Dallaire, or Terry Fox.

**Organizations** like the Black Panthers, the White Rose, or Sinn Fein.

20th century watershed events

**Riots**: Bonus Army March (USA, 1932), Regina Riot (1935), Direct Action Day (India, 1946), Rocket Richard Riots (Montreal, 1955), Watts Riot (USA, 1965), Attica Prison Riot (USA, 1971), Soweto Uprising (South Africa, 1976)

**Massacres**: Amritsar Massacre (India, 1919), Nanking Massacre (China, 1937), Katyn Massacre (USSR, 1940), Sharpeville Massacre (South Africa, 1960), My Lai Massacre (Vietnam, 1968), Kent State Massacre (1970, USA), Munich Massacre (Germany, 1972), Bloody Sunday (1972, Northern Ireland), Tiananmen Square Massacre (China, 1989), Ecole Polytechnique Massacre (Montreal, 1989)

**Assassinations**: Archduke Franz Ferdinand, (1914), JFK (1963), Dr. King (1968)

**Speeches**: FDR’s “This day will live in infamy”, Churchill’s “Finest Hour”, Goebbels “Do you want total war?”, Castro’s “History will absolve me”, JFK’s inaugural address, MLK’s “I have a dream”, Malcolm X “The ballot or the bullet”, Reagan’s “Tear Down this Wall”

**Protests**: Winnipeg General Strike (1919), March on Washington (1963)

**Coups d’état**: Kapp Putch (Germany, 1920), March on Rome (1922), 1973 Chilean coup

**Battles**: attack of Pearl Harbour (1941), D-day (1944), dropping atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki (1945)

**Leaps in technology**: launch of Sputnik (1957), Apollo 11 space flight (1969), release of first Macintosh computer (1984)

**Dramatic medical advancements**: development of insulin (1922), USA approves “the Pill” (1960), First heart transplant (1967).

**Political controversies**: Hitler appointed chancellor (1933), partition of India (1947), Nixon impeached (1974), fall of the Berlin Wall (1989), release of Nelson Mandela (1990).

**Cultural events**: the first commercial “talkie” movie (1927), Jesse Owens wins 4 Olympic medals (1936), Elvis appears on the Ed Sullivan show (1956).

My research topic: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

My backups: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Procedure for step 2: Research

1. Research widely. Choose at one reliable source from each of these resource types:
   1. Library catalogues (GSS library, Fraser Valley Library, etc)
   2. The internet: use a search engine such as Google (vary your search terms), use the links at the bottom of most Wikipedia pages, etc.
   3. Databases

1. Complete a bibliography using Easybib.
2. Take notes that are:
   1. point form
   2. organized into topics/subtopics
   3. detailed
   4. keep track of your sources

Step 3: Complete the argument template

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Intro | Thesis/main argument: |
| Brief background/big philosophical ideas/why you chose this topic/etc: |
| 1st point | Explain point: |
| Evidence/reasoning that supports point: |
| 2nd point | Explain point: |
| Evidence/reasoning that explains point: |
| 3rd point | Explain point: |
| Evidence/reasoning that explains point: |
| So what? | What are the broader implications? What does this tell us about social/historical patterns? Why is this important? |

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Block: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Rubric for presentations (self-assessment)**

Topic: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| How much information/evidence/ factual knowledge is included in your presentation? | | | |
| Not much | Some | Enough | Lots |
| Evidence/explanation: | | | |
| How *engaging* and *professional* is your presentation? | | | |
| Not very | A little bit | Somewhat | Very |
| Evidence/explanation: | | | |
| How clear is your thinking/argument/analysis? | | | |
| Confusing | Emerging | Solid | Insightful/original |
| Evidence/explanation: | | | |

Comments:

Overall assessment:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Does not meet | Minimal | Meets expectations | Exceeds |