

Historical Analysis Required for All Class History Day Projects 2009-10 Theme: *Innovation in History: Impact and Change*

Historical Setting

Explain how political, economic, cultural, and social circumstances affected the success or failure of an innovation. For example the success of the Montgomery Bus Boycott in 1955, which ended the segregation of buses in that city, was aided by Supreme Court desegregation decisions such as *Brown v. the Board of Education in Topeka, Kansas* in 1954. In addition, African Americans had distinguished themselves in WWII, and had also fought in desegregated military units in the Korean War. Better education helped Americans understand the inherent injustice of segregation. Television brought disturbing images of racial mistreatment into homes. These factors and more fostered the success of the Civil Rights Movement.

Significance of Place

Explain how a particular place either helped or hindered the innovation. For example, inappropriate new farming methods for the Great Plains lead to the “Dust Bowl” that pushed many immigrants into California. Pittsburgh became the center of the steel industry because it was close to Pennsylvania coalfields and the city could use its three rivers, the Great Lakes, and the St. Lawrence Seaway to transport raw materials and finished steel.

Cause and Effect

What were some of the major causes and effects on the history of the innovation? Include an explanation of change over time. A single event may trigger a series of changes that lead up to one big change. For example, the *Declaration of Independence* set forth ideals, such as equality, on which our country has made significant progress, but which it still has not reached. The Thirteenth Amendment ended slavery in 1865, but nearly one hundred years later the African American Civil Rights Movement was still fighting for full equality. Their successes then lead the way for movements to gain more equal rights for other minorities and women. The struggle for equality continues, particularly for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender rights.

Point of View

Describe the different perspectives related to your thesis. What were the biases and goals of the holders of those perspectives?

Significance of Topic

Describe the lasting significance in history for the innovation: so what? How did the innovation change the short-term and long-term course of U.S. History? How does the innovation affect the United States today?