HISTORICAL CONTEXT & SIGNIFICANCE
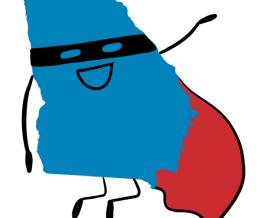
How was the setting important?
What people/movements influenced it?
What people, ideas or events took place at the same time that were related to your topic?
What were the main events occurring before your topic? What caused it to happen?

CONTEXT - Nothing occurs in a vacuum

Main Event/Heart of the Story

SIGNIFICANCE - So What?

Why was your topic significant in history?
What were the immediate results of your topic?
What long term changes took place because of your topic?
Did your topic influence people, ideas or events afterwards?

Regardless of the category students select for their project, the essential structure remains the same. Every project should have a story board that contains the following essential elements in support of your thesis:

CONTEXT

1. **Background - This establishes the context in which your topic occurred**
2. **Build Up - Also part of the context, this sets the stage immediately before your topic's central events occurred**

THE EVENT

3. **The Event itself - The "heart of the matter"**

SIGNIFICANCE

4. **Immediate Impact - What's the short term or immediate significance of your topic?**
5. **Long Term Impact - What impact did your topic have over time?**

What does this look like? Notice the following sample from the Exhibit section of the Presentation unit:

CONTEXT   EVENT   SIGNIFICANCE

TITLE

BACKGROUND

Put your topic into historical context

What was taking place before or at the same time as your topic?

What outside forces influenced your topic?

THESIS

Short Term Impact

Focus on what happened shortly after the main events of your topic

Build Up

Give more specific information related to your topic than "background". Think of this as the "spark" that set the main event in motion

The "HEART OF THE STORY" or "MAIN EVENTS" describe the key details of your topic

Give the major details about the main events. What happened?

Include specific details

This section generally covers a smaller time period

Long Term Impact

Take a step back and think about the **historical significance** of your topic. Be sure to connect this back to your thesis!