

Process Paper—Introduction

Personal Connection:

My National History Day project is about two people, Harry and Bertha Holt, who changed many children's lives in the 1950's by giving them a family through international adoption. The Holts adopted eight Korean War orphans in 1955, even though they already had six biological children of their own. They also helped other families find children through international adoption. I chose this topic because I have a strong connection with it. My brother and I were both adopted through the Holt International Children's Services, and my adoptive mom and brother even got to meet Bertha Holt.

I chose my topic, Black Hawk Down, for two reasons: my personal connection to this historic battle and to understand what led to this military tragedy. What I discovered was much more. I have grown up hearing the story of how my cousin Matthew Rierson, Delta Force, was tragically killed in Somalia. So I took the opportunity of National History Day to research why our U.S. Forces were sent to Somalia, what went wrong and why this event is so well remembered.

The Kolb Brothers, Emery and Ellsworth, were pioneer photographers at the Grand Canyon, who explored the Green and Colorado Rivers while capturing their encounters on still and motion picture film in 1911 and 1912. Their photography studio, the Kolb Studio, still stands at the edge of the South Rim today, exchanging their river media for generations to come. I recently visited the Kolb Studio while on vacation with my family. When school started this fall, I began to brainstorm topics for History Day. I decided to focus on an artsy genre and began researching photographers. I soon re-encountered the Kolb Brothers and decided to focus on their 1911-1912 river exploration.

Passion/ Future Occupation

My topic, The First Transcontinental Railroad, is about the first railroad built across America and many of the challenges the project encountered. The main reason I chose this topic is because I have a deep passion for the railroad and hope to work on it someday. I have also been curious about this time in history, since the day I saw the real golden spike in Council Bluffs, Iowa, at the Union Pacific Railroad Museum.

My topic for National History Day is Nikola Tesla. Tesla was an electrical inventor and engineer. I chose this topic because I heard he had encounters with Thomas Edison, and thought it would be interesting to learn about the other side of the situation. Additionally, I am quite interested by electricity and science, and am planning on getting a job that's involved with engineering.

For our National History Day project, we chose Dr. Edward Stone and the Voyager Program. The Voyager Program created two satellites that explored the outer planets of our solar system and eventually reached interstellar space. Dr. Stone was the leader of this program. We chose this topic because Edward Stone is from Iowa, and we are interested in space. To find this topic, we went to the Voyager's website and looked for possible people to focus on for our project.