Research Process

Intro
• Image of process
• Historian process or navigation
• “in the process of doing history, one can be changed, transformed by what one learns. Stories have power. Power changes things. Thus history is not dead, but alive…” (pg 9, Holt, 1990)
• “students should be taught to form their own historic narratives in a disciplined way” (Holt, 1990, pg.12)

Topic

Subtopic

Question

What do you know?

Thesis statement
• a sentence that summarizes the main point of your presentation/final product
• appears in introduction of presentation/final product
• establishes the position you choose to support
• should appear at end of your presentation to support/conclude the points you have made.
• will change throughout your research as you learn new things/collect new data and revisit it periodically

Data collection

Sourcing/context

Supporting Points
• Each point should clearly support the thesis statement
• This is where you include direct quotes, events, descriptions to illustrate your point

Corroboration

Narrative outline
• “organize stories of your own” (Holt, 1990, pg.10)
• “tell it like a plot, beginning, middle, end” (Holt, 1990, pg.10)
• “bringing some of your present to the past” (Holt, 1990, pg.11)
• Organize the major points and evidence
• Summarize using supporting docs, quotes, evidence
Corroboration (again?)
• Need to toss anything?
• Do you have conflicting sources?
• Do some sources not triangulate?
• Where do you have gaps in your information?
• Any points that are weakly supported?

Checklist before presentation
• Have I answered the specific question?
• Have I included a thesis statement that specifies what I am presenting?
• Have I developed at least three major points that support the thesis statement?
• Have I included enough historical evidence to support each major point? (forcing them to get 10 sources?)
• Have I used at least 3 different types of sources? (TVA)
• Have I presented the information in a clear and logical manner?
• Have I restated the thesis/main idea of the presentation?
• Have I summarized the main points of the presentation in a cohesive manner?