

My NHD Topic Overview

—Each student should complete this on their own, whether you're in a group or not—

____ LT: I can build background knowledge on a topic of research

Topic: The Women Warriors of Dahomey

(Model: The French Revolution)

<https://www.encyclopedia.com/social-sciences/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/dahomey-women-warrior-wives-king>

Who is the person or group and event you are studying and who did they resist?

(Model: People from the Third Estate resisted the French king)

The group I am studying is a group of Women Warrior who fought in battles for Dahomey (today it is called Benin). They were known as many names, one is the Dahomey Amazons, the Wives of the King, and so on. They were fearless warrior women who fought in the military. They fought against the French. They were known to be fearless and were willing to die for their king.

What did they do? What was the situation they were resisting? Explain.

(Model: Representatives of the Third Estate resisted the unfairness and oppression they faced in French society and at the hands of the king. They were faced with a shortage of bread, increased bread prices, increased taxes, extreme inequality, poverty and a lack of a voice in the government to make their concerns and wishes heard. The French king was unresponsive to their situation and demands. They started many actions, violent and peaceful, that created a revolution.

They fought for Dahomey. They fought against the French in 1892 for their kingdom to not be colonized. They fought many battles and started many battles.

What happened: how was the situation a tragedy or a triumph or both?

(Model: The Third Estate lived a very tragic life, with half of them dying from hardships before the age of fifteen. They triumphed over the situation of injustice by winning their revolution. This was a tragedy for King Louis XVI and the French monarchy, as Louis was executed and the monarchy was ended. It was a triumph for human rights and social justice. It was also a tragedy for all the people who were killed in the revolution.

The situation is both tragedy and triumph because even though when they fought the French they didn't win. They were willing to fight and die for their king and their country and that is triumph.

When did the event happen?

(MODEL: 1789-1799)

1892

Where did the event happen?

(MODEL: France)

Dahomey

Why did they do what they did?

(MODEL: The people from the Third Estate did not see any way to resolve their conflict with the king because he did not make any compromises to ease their suffering, even though they expressed their frustrations violently and peacefully. More than getting a new king, they thought a better type of government could be formed that would meet the needs and rights of the people.)

They volunteered, some were slaves sometimes adulterous or rebellious women were recruited.

Other major facts:

PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER: PROJECT INTRODUCTION

The Women Warriors of Dahomey were a group of women who fought for the kingdom of Dahomey and its king. They were fearless women who weren't afraid to die in battle. Although there is no evidence of when they first came into existence, it is known that they existed in the 17th Century and by 1720 were palace guards. The women warriors underwent a lot of training. They were known to climb thorny walls, fight hand to hand combat, they executed prisoners, etc. They did all this training so that they could be the best and have no fears. The first battle against the French started around 1890 and there were about 23 separate battles. The Dahomeans lost the French battle and the women were the last to surrender and that shows bravery and fearlessness. It is said that the French took their revenge in seducing the Dahomean women. It is said that they let themselves be seduced and while the French were sleeping they would cut off their throats.

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Laura Moyo
6:06 PM Jan 14

existed or do you mean they were established then? (the start of their group)



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only in this year? how is this year described in what you've read?



Laura Moyo
6:12 PM Jan 14

this part seems a bit specific, you might not need it for the introduction, also, do you believe it? it seems very out of
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PART A: Build Your NHD Thesis Statement

Each student (even those working in groups) will write their own thesis statement

Step 1: Copy/paste your central research question here:

(This is in your Google Doc called "NHD Research Questions")

How did *women warriors of Dahomey* struggle against the *French* lead to triumph and tragedy?

Step 2: Brainstorm here possible parts of your answer to your central research question

<p><i>Triumph: (What successes did your person/group have?)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● <i>The women were fearless.</i>● <i>They fought for the king and won many battles.</i>● <i>They had a lot of power.</i>● <i>The women warriors had positions men had.</i>● <i>They could endure a lot of pain.</i>● <i>They were brave.</i>● <i>They were respected by men and women.</i>	<p><i>Tragedy: (What were the negative impacts of your person/group?)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● <i>They had restrictions such as marriage and celibacy.</i>● <i>They didn't win the fight against the French.</i>● <i>Many died during war/battles.</i>● <i>Some had PTSD.</i>● <i>Their legacy as warriors didn't live on. They didn't have any children.</i>
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Step 3: Pick out three parts of your answer above that are the strongest

Which three ideas above are the strongest answers? You will write about one paragraph for each part: do you have enough to say? Do you think you can find more information and evidence if you need it?

Copy/paste those three ideas here:

1. *The women warriors had positions men had. They were respected by men and women.*
2. *The women were fearless. They were brave.*
3. *They didn't win the fight against the French.*

Step 4: Write your complete thesis statement here

Begin by using the words in the central research question, then provide a three-part answer to the question

The Women Warriors of Dahomey triumphed in most battles and reputation because they were fearless, well trained and respected by all, although their loss against the French led to the colonization of Dahomey.

The Women Warriors of Dahomey triumphed in battle because they were highly trained, they were feared and respected by all, even though, their loss against the French led to the colonization of Dahomey.

The WWD were a triumphant, highly regarded military elite due to their training and experience, even though their loss to the French led to the colonization of Dahomey.

Step 5: Run the thesis checklist

Your thesis statement...

- Answers the central research question
- Is one complete sentence
- Is an argument, not a simple set of facts
- Has three parts (teacher may approve a strong two-part thesis)

THESIS Model

The Third Estate in the French Revolution

Step 1: What is your Central Research Question?

How did the people in the Third Estate's struggle against the French government lead to triumph and/or tragedy?

Step 2: Brainstorm

Triumph:

- The 3rd Est. found their voice and were no longer powerless
- the 3rd Est. ended the social classes (e.g. the three estates) and created legal equality
- they started a government that represented all of the people
- They created a declaration of human rights (giving them legally-recognized rights)
- Eventually, they didn't live such hard lives where they were so poor and hungry because they stood up for themselves
- The revolution inspired a lot of other revolutions, so it was bigger than just a French victory

Tragedy:

- The revolution was extremely violent, and a lot of people died to create such a big change
- The revolution created a lot of uncertainty in Europe because it was such a radical time of changes; it led to war between France and Austria

Step 3: Pick out (or rewrite) three parts of your answer above that are the strongest

1. They found their voice and were no longer powerless
2. The 3rd Est. gained legal rights (note to self: I can talk about the National Assembly and the Declaration of rights)
3. They gained a lot of rights, but there was a lot of chaos and violence - tragic for many

Step 4: Write your complete thesis statement here

The people in the Third Estate's struggle against the government was a triumph for their voice and their rights, even though their revolution caused a lot of violence and chaos.

Step 5: Run the thesis checklist

PART B:

Determine Your NHD Project Subtopics

Now that you have done a lot of research, you are almost ready to building your project. Each project should have three subtopics along with an introduction and conclusion. Your subtopics should support your thesis statement. After all, the thesis is the argument you will prove throughout your topic and your subtopics are the parts of the project that flesh out the thesis.

List all of the note card subtopics topics you've created so far:

Journal of Dahomey
What did they wear?
Qualities/Characteristics
Training/Skills
The French Praise them
Defeat
The last living women warrior
Their reward
WWD training
Year women warrior were recruited
They were fearless
Their origins
Their origins part 2

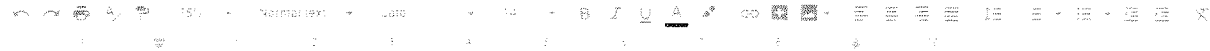
What other subtopics have you learned about your NHD topic?

I have learned a little about their fight against the French, although, I feel like I need more information about the French war.

What three subtopics do you want to create?

Complete part A of this document before you do this box so that your subtopics are part of your thesis

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



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Step 2: Brainstorm here possible parts of your answer to your central research question

Triumph: What successes did your person/group have?

- The women were fearless
- They fought for the king and won many battles
- They had a lot of power
- The women warriors had positions men had
- They could endure a lot of pain
- They were brave
- They were respected by men and women

Tragedy: What were the negative impacts of your person/group?

- They had restricted access to marriage and childbirth
- They didn't win the fight against the French
- Many died during war/battle
- Some saw PTSD
- Their husbands/warriors didn't live on. They didn't have any children

Step 3: Pick out three parts of your answer above that are the strongest

Which three ideas above are the strongest answers? You will write about one paragraph for each part. Do you have enough to say? Do you think you can find more information and evidence if you need it?

Copy/paste those three ideas here:

1. The women warriors had positions men had. They were respected by men and women.
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Brain by using the words in the central research question, then provide a three-part answer to the question

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- eventually, they didn't live such hard lives where they were so poor and hungry because they stood up for themselves
- The revolution inspired a lot of other revolutions, so it was bigger than just a French victory

The 3rd Est. triumphed in many ways because they found their voice and were no longer powerless, even though, their loss against the French led to the colonization of Dahomey.

The WWD were a triumphant, highly regarded military elite due to their training and experience, even though their loss to the French led to the colonization of Dahomey.

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6:04 AM Jan 14

Resolve

one way a thesis is different from a statement of facts is that you, the author, make a judgment about a person/group.

why don't you try switching this chunk of text a bit so that it's clear you are making a judgement about them as 'triumphant' 'highly regarded and elite are a little more factual, triumphant is a little more arguable (because they eventually lost, but you're focusing on them being triumphant on balance).

make sense?

Show more



Laura Moya
6:01 PM Jan 14

Resolve

excellent work grappling with your thesis!

it would be helpful if you added roughly how long the WW were in existence. It was at least 100 year, no? This way the reader can understand more clearly why you would call them triumphant.

Stacy

Reply...

NHD Source Log, 2018-9 Keily Lopez, Jason Perla, and Precious Ogu

#	URL / location	Source Type	Title	Author/Site	Primary/Secondary source?	What's covered in this source?	Comments	Student who found it (for groups)	Moye Comments
0	http://www.pbs.org/webb/pages/fronlineshows/heroineetc/history.html	news webpage	"The Opium Kings"	PBS	secondary	Opium timeline	useful timeline of opium in history	Moye	1st score 12/11 : 3.25 (you need a 5th source)
1	https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/oahomeys-womel-warriors-3828607/	news webpage	"Dahomey's Women Warriors"	Smithsonian.com	Secondary			Keily Lopez	
2	http://www.bbc.com/travel/story/20180826-the-legend-of-benins-fearless-female-warriors	news webpage	"The legend of Benin's fearless female warriors"	BBC	Secondary			Keily Lopez	
3	http://www.epa-prema.net/abomeyCB/resources/amazons.html	not sure	"The Amazons"	The Historical Museum of Abomey	Secondary			Precious Ogu	
4	https://www.messynessy.com/2016/03/18/feel-the-amazonian-terminators-of-dahomey-the-most-feared-women-in-history/	news webpage	"Meet the Most Feared Women in History"	Messy-Nessy	Secondary			Precious Ogu	Not scholarly, cannot use
4	https://www.encyclopedia.com/social-sciences/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/dahomey-women-warriors	Book	"The Women Warriors of Dahomey"	Stanley B. Alpern	Secondary			Moye	
5	https://www.encyclopedia.com/social-sciences/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/dahomey-women-warriors/wives-of-the-king	Encyclopedia	"Dahomey, Women Warriors/Wives Of The King"					Keily Lopez	