

Performance

Research the topic first. Write down important facts or quotes that may be important to the performance. Write a thesis statement, supporting statements and a conclusion.

Prepare a script. Brainstorm with general ideas and how they might be presented. If a group is performing, each member should describe different ways in which characters might interact.

Script Tip #1: Make sure your script contains references to the historical evidence found in your research.

Script Tip #2: Using actual dialogue, quotations, or brief excerpts from speeches are good ways to put historical detail into your performance.

Script Tip #3: Remember that your script should center on the thesis statement, supporting statements, and the conclusion that you developed from your research.

Set: Think about different types of sets that might help depict your topic. Is there a prop that is central to the story?

Prepare the blocking. To "block" a performance is to determine where the actors will stand, move, and/or relate to the set. You should think about these movements when deciding what type of set to design.

Costumes: Good costumes help make a performer convincing, but make sure they are appropriate to the topic. You do not need to purchase or make an elaborate costume - sometimes simple works best (e.g. white shirt and dark pants/skirt can fit almost any time period).

Practice, practice, practice! Work on speaking clearly, pronouncing all words correctly, and projecting your voice so that the judges and the audience can hear every word. Rehearse with the set and full costumes as often as possible.