NHDC Middle School Skills Assessment

I. Topic Selection

Using your own historical knowledge and any resources provided to you, fill in the diagrams below. Remember that the best topics are narrowed and concise.

**Interest: Franklin D. Roosevelt**

Theme: Leadership and Legacy

Broad Topic: Leadership during the Great Depression and World War II

Narrowed Focus:

**Interest: Civil Rights**

Theme: Rights and Responsibilities

Broad Topic: Making Segregation Formally Illegal

Narrowed Focus:
II. Thesis Statements

Using the primary source below, as well as your knowledge regarding the Women’s Suffrage Movement, write a thesis discussing competing points of view regarding women’s gaining the right to vote.

III. Research Process

1. What is the difference between a primary source and a secondary source? Explain.

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2. Give an example of a primary source.

_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

3. Give an example of a secondary source.

_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

4. Is the following source primary or secondary? Explain.

IV. Analysis

The picture below was painted by John Trumball, and depicts the signing of the Declaration of Independence by the delegates of the Continental Congress in 1776. Trumball was commissioned to paint this in 1817, and it was to hang in the rotunda of the Capital in Washington D.C. where it remains today. However, the event did not happen this way. Rarely were any of the delegates present at the Continental Congress all at once, and they were not all present to sign the Declaration of Independence the day it was presented to the Congress.

Why would the painter and United States government who commissioned the painting depict something that never actually happened? What does this say about the significance of the event? Explain.
Suppose you created a project on the Supreme Court Case *Plessy v. Ferguson*. With the knowledge that *Plessy v. Ferguson* made segregation legal, and the thesis below, compose a clear and concise conclusion for your project.

Thesis: Even though the 13th Amendment abolished slavery in 1864, the Supreme Court’s “separate but equal” ruling in *Plessy v. Ferguson* in 1896 resulted in segregation and intense racism against African Americans, establishing a new system of slavery.
1. Use the cover page and copyright information below to write a citation in __________ format.

2. Imagine that you are writing a paper on the American Revolution. With the knowledge that 1776 talks extensively about the leadership of George Washington, write an annotation about how this book could inform your project.