

# Things You Should Consider in Creating Your Exhibit

- Is the information arranged in a way that helps you tell your story clearly?
- Do you show change over time? For example, do you show how your person's leadership evolved and how his/her legacy changed as time progressed?
- Do you include different points of view of the participants? How did others view your leader and his/her efforts?
- How did time and place influence events? Ask yourself "why there?" and "why then?" You might include timelines of larger events that occurred at the same time as your subject, or the use of colors that have meaning to your subject.
- Draw conclusions. In other words, your exhibit should reveal your thesis.

## Selecting Items to Put on Your Exhibit

- Do they fit in with the theme?
- Do they advance the story you are telling?
- Is the document:
  - Too long?
  - Too wordy?
  - Easy to read and understand?
  - Interesting visually?
- What visual materials are you going to display? Consider the kind of information you can obtain from a painting or photo that is not provided by a written document.
- Will you include artifacts? If so, will they be historical, or will you create something?
- Will you use interactives?
- Will you include audiovisual materials?

# EXHIBIT LABELS

**1) Main Exhibit Label** (Largest font): Explains exhibit (Use a catchy title)

The Siege of Petersburg  
A Civil War City in Conflict

**2) Section Titles** (Slightly smaller font): Focus on your most important topics

Why was Petersburg Important?

The Battle of the Crater

Life in a City under Siege

**3) Document Label** (Smallest font): Identifies the document and contains details on that item

President Abraham Lincoln sent this telegram to General Ulysses S. Grant on August 17, 1864, to encourage General Grant to keep up the siege around Petersburg.

(National Archives, Washington, DC)

**Quotations** add excitement and bring the past to life. They do not count against the 500-word limit. However, too many quotes will detract from the exhibit and make it look overcrowded and difficult to read.

Information adapted from:

National Archives and Records Administration. *Making History: How to Create a Historical Exhibit*. Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO, 2006. Print.