

Story Line Statements and Focus Questions

Story Line Statements

As a project planner you will develop story line statements to outline the important aspects of your museum topic and support your big idea. (During the instructional process students will similarly develop story line statements for their exhibits, after they've concluded their research.)

Story line statements organize museum content in a meaningful way and assure coherence within the completed exhibition—each story line statement may be an exhibit area in your school museum. Consider how the following story line supports the big idea of a school exhibition on immigration.

Big idea: Immigrants built a new life in an unfamiliar land, enriching the local culture.

Story line:

1. People came from faraway lands to Wisconsin.
2. Compared to life in their native lands, life for immigrants in Wisconsin was very different in some ways and the same in other ways.
3. Immigrating to another country is exciting and difficult.
4. Some cultural groups experienced stereotyping or discrimination.
5. Each cultural group is unique and enriches the local culture.

Focus Questions

Your completed story line can be translated to a set of focus questions that provide exhibit teams with their broad research focus area. For example:

Story line statement: People came from faraway lands to Wisconsin.

Focus question: What brought people from faraway lands to Wisconsin?

An accompanying set of research questions provides further direction for student exploration of the focus question. See *Kid Curator Project Plan Template* and sample project plans for examples, which include research questions. Also see *Learning on Display*, chapter 3 for more information.