

In selecting a topic, I wanted to find a topic that was interesting to me. As I was looking at a variety of different topics that were related to the annual theme of “ Revolution, Reaction, Reform”, I wanted to find something that was significant and connected to how the government responded to people’s needs during hard times. I asked myself these questions: How do governments react in times of national crisis? What kinds of reforms can truly help people and create lasting change? Who is responsible for making sure citizens have security in their lives? Then I thought back to when we learned about the Great Depression and President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s New Deal programs. I was especially interested in the creation of Social Security, which was both a reaction to the suffering caused by the Great Depression and a reform that provided long term support for millions of Americans. This stood out to me because FDR’s leadership and the Social Security program showed how thoughtful reforms can improve people’s lives and shape the country’s future.

I conducted my research by gathering information from multiple sources. My main sources were President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s fireside chat about Social Security and government records from the Social Security Administration. I also reviewed historical websites and documents that explained how the Great Depression affected American families and why a program like Social Security was needed. Finding sources that described the creation of the Social Security Act, the debates in Congress, and the impact it had on workers and seniors was crucial to my research. I made sure my information was accurate and reliable by comparing details from multiple sources to confirm that they matched.

I started my project by brainstorming ideas on what my topic was going to be and how it fit into this year's theme. I did my research on whether the topic I wanted to do had many resources I could look into. When I settle on a topic, I divide my work and research on the timeline of the events. After I finished my research, found quotes and photos that fit with my topic, I started to build my website on NHDWebCentral.

Social Security was a direct reaction to the Great Depression's widespread poverty and unemployment. Before 1935, most Americans over 65 lived in poverty with no safety net. President Roosevelt's New Deal showed government intervention was necessary to protect citizens during the economic crisis. The program balanced federal responsibility with individual security, proving the government could help without creating excessive central power. It became a model for future social welfare programs.

My topic is significant in history because Social Security transformed U.S. history by creating a permanent safety net after the 1929 crash devastated families nationwide. From helping seniors, the blind, disabled, and orphans in industrial cities and Dust Bowl regions, it now supports millions of Americans. As the New Deal's most successful program, it stabilized the economy and redefined the government's role despite ongoing reform debates.