

National History Day 2027

"Innovation in History: Impact, Influence, Change"

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"Brooklyn Bridge," 1904
Brooklyn Daily Eagle Photographs
Center for Brooklyn History



"Electric Tower at night", 1903?
Brooklyn Daily Eagle Photographs
Center for Brooklyn History

National History Day 2027: Innovation

According to National History Day,

INNOVATION (noun) refers to:

- “a new idea, method, or device”

To INNOVATE (verb) is to:

- “introduce a new process or way of doing things”



“Modeling with a model,” 1945
Brooklyn Daily Eagle photographs
Center for Brooklyn History

National History Day 2027: Innovation

“Innovation” may make you think of technology or an invention, but it can be so much more!

- social, political, cultural, and intellectual breakthroughs
- Finding new ways of thinking
- A new method for doing something
- Taking an old idea and making it relevant in a new way



“Up from Nanny Goat Park,” 1953
Brooklyn Daily Eagle photographs
Center for Brooklyn History

National History Day 2027: Impact

According to National History Day, IMPACT refers to:

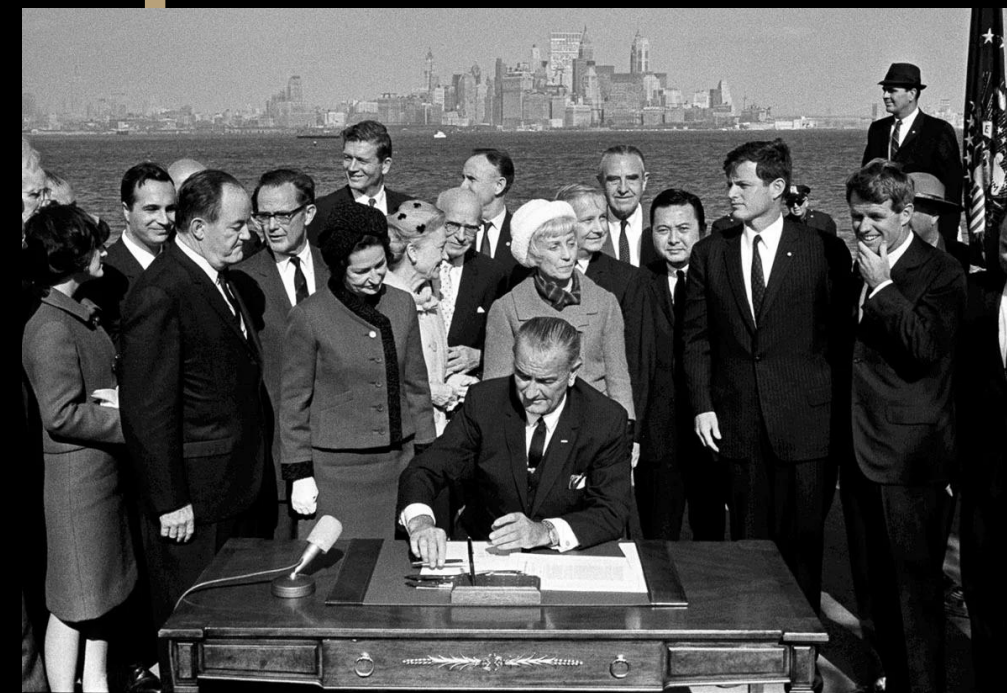
-“The strong influence of one thing on another; a significant or major effect”

-Remember that impact can be short-term or long-term (the attack on Pearl Harbor vs. carbon emissions affecting climate change)

-Impact can also be intentional, or unintentional:



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Yoichi Okamoto
Lyndon B. Johnson signing the Hart Celler Immigration Act, 1965
Lyndon B. Johnson Library

“This bill that we will sign today is not a revolutionary bill. It does not affect the lives of millions. It will not reshape the structure of our daily lives, or really add importantly to either our wealth or our power.”

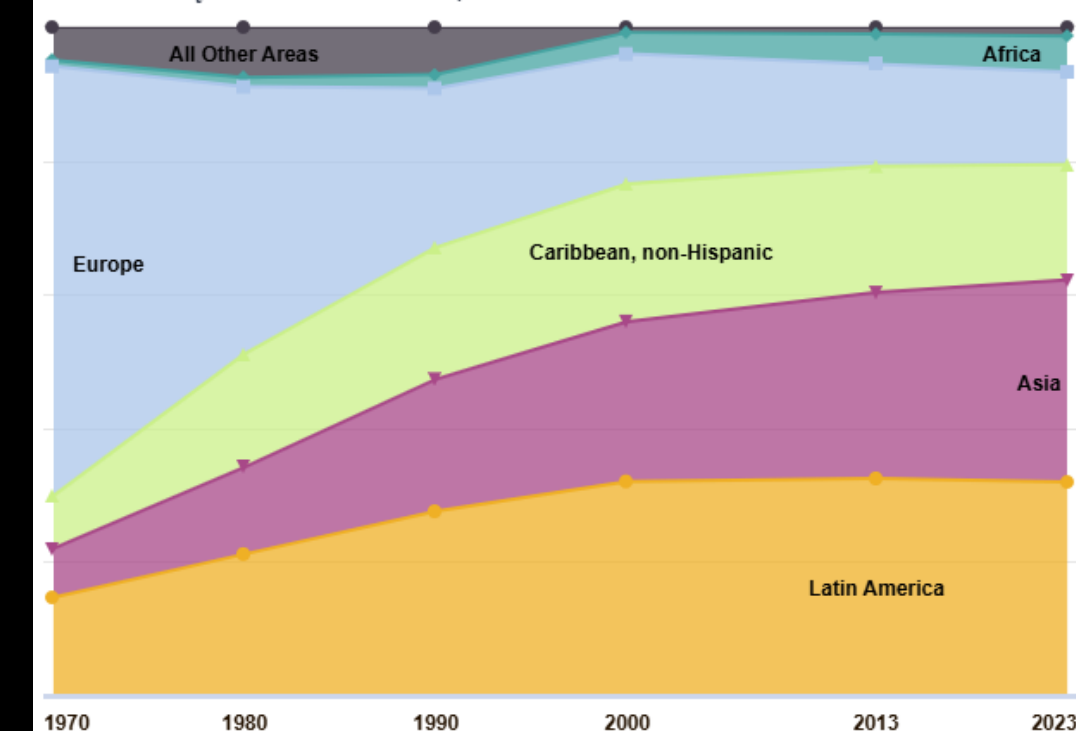
Lyndon B. Johnson, 1965
Remarks at the Signing of the Immigration Bill

“Since the passage of the 1965 Immigration and Nationality Act, New York’s foreign-born population has more than doubled, to around 3.1 million in 2023. Given that the total population of the city has not increased substantially during this time, the foreign-born share of the overall population has also more than doubled, to 37.5 percent.”

The Newest New Yorkers, 2026

Figure 2.7

Foreign-born Population by Area of Origin
New York City and the United States, 1970 to 2023



Foreign-born Population by Area of Origin
New York City and the United States, 1970 to 2023

The Newest New Yorkers, 2026

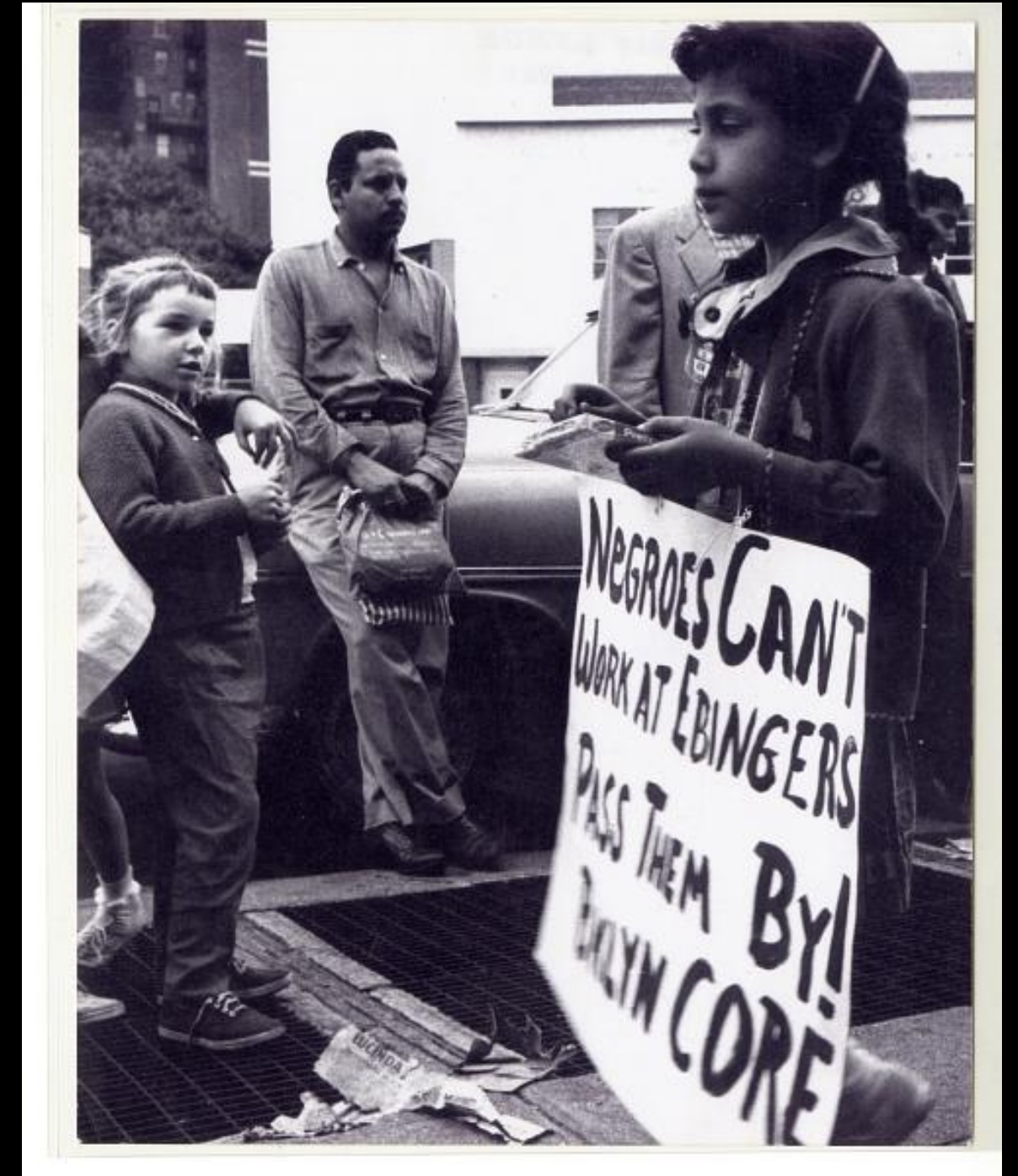
National History Day 2027: Influence

According to National History Day, INFLUENCE refers to:

- “having an effect on the condition or development of something like people, technology, culture, government, and/or society”
- Influence also has a connotation of *persuasion*- less emphasis on FORCING an effect, but introducing a concept or making an argument that suggests a change is in order



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[A girl protests Ebinger's Bakery's hiring policy], 1962-1963
Rioghan Kirchner Civil Rights in Brooklyn Collection
Center for Brooklyn History

National History Day 2027: Change

According to National History Day, CHANGE refers to:

- “an action performed or a feeling experienced in response to a situation or event; the resistance or opposition to a force or movement”

-But of course we know what change is! One question to keep in mind: how do you demonstrate that change has happened? How do you show, and not tell?



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Pierrepont Bartow
View of New York from Fulton Ferry Slip Brooklyn, 1872
Center for Brooklyn History



Lev Dodin
Promenade in Shore Road Park, 2008
Center for Brooklyn History

National History Day 2027: How to Pick a Project

Questions to ask yourself to find a topic you're excited about:

- **What kinds of creators/games/books do I like to find? What kind of content do I gravitate toward?**
- **What makes me lock in when I do it?**
- **How has that thing changed over history? How would someone my age interact with that thing 50 years ago? 100? 300? What innovations have shaped it?**

National History Day 2027: How to Pick a Project

Questions to go from topic to PROJECT:

- Is there a key person or event who everyone thinks of when it comes to that thing?
- Why are they/is it so famous?
- Where do people encounter this? Where can I learn more about this topic than the general public?
- What had to happen for me to be exposed to this? Could that represent an innovation? What or who was impacted, influenced, or changed?

National History Day 2027: How to Pick a Project

How do I find ways to talk about my project that get people interested? Paint a picture!

- Think about a historical person you'd like to learn more about, then think about their time period. What would they have worn? What food would they have eaten? How did they get around? What music, books, or other things would they have looked to for fun?
- How might any of these factored into their life- do they represent an innovation? What kinds of innovations have affected how MY life differs from theirs?
- How can your project convey this? What do you have to tell with words? What can you show instead?



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National History Day 2027: Tips to Improve Your Project

Tips from a longtime judge:

- Any topic in history probably has **SOME** connection to “innovation,” “influence,” “impact,” and/or “change.” If there’s something you want to talk about, brainstorm a connection!
- Your project should revolve around a **QUESTION**. For example, instead of “Brooklyn Brownstone Buildings: An Architectural Icon, ” you could ask, “How Did Brooklyn’s 20th Century Brownstone Boom Influence What We Now Call Gentrification?”

Bklyn
Public Library

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Brownstone fronts in Park Slope, 1949
Brooklyn Daily Eagle Photographs
Center for Brooklyn History

Gentrification: The Case of Clinton Hill

Brooklyn Neighborhood Retains Its Racial Mix

By MICHAEL deCOURCY HINDS

There is always human and political turmoil when a city neighborhood is being retrieved from abandonment and decay and, in this regard, the Clinton Hill section of downtown Brooklyn is no exception. But unlike other minority neighborhoods that have been overrun by middle-income whites in search of affordable housing, Clinton Hill has been propelled into gentrification by an integrated mix of middle-income New Yorkers.

“It is one of the few truly integrated neighborhoods in New York City and the gentrification is also integrated,” said Hortense Beveridge, executive director of the Pratt Area Community Council, a nonprofit social service organization. “But that doesn’t mean that it has been any less painful or any less difficult for the lower-income whites and blacks.”

Gentrification, a euphemism for a renewal process that is tarnished by racism, elitism and greed, relies on the heavy investment of money and time in a community by new residents, many of whom themselves were proud out of more expensive neighborhoods. This type of urban renewal is often endorsed without hesitation or else condemned as a heartless process that displaces people who are least able to cope with the city’s housing shortage.

Politicians often deny the effects of gentrification but support subsidy programs that promote neighborhood rehabilitation. The Koch administration’s housing programs, for example, include tax benefits for rehabilitating buildings as well as a legal assistance to help tenants fight eviction from buildings being vacated for rehabilitation. A subsidized loan program, which is intended to maintain affordable housing in improving neighborhoods, is ignored by most developers, who complain about its bureaucratic uncertainty and delay.

Clinton Hill provides a rare perspective on the gentrification process, one that is largely stripped of racial tension because of the neighborhood’s history of integration and the participation of middle-income blacks in the process.

It is a predominantly black, 88-block section bordered by Vanderbilt Avenue and Fort Greene on the west; Myrtle Avenue and Wallabout, a small residential area adjacent to the Brooklyn Navy Yard, on the north; Classon Avenue and Bedford-Stuyvesant on the east; Fulton Avenue and Prospect Heights on the south.

The section’s Historic District — centered on the Clinton Avenue mansions built in the late 19th century by coffee, lace and baking soda merchants — lies in the western half of the neighborhood and includes 17 whole blocks and portions of another dozen.

The neighborhood is a treat to walk in because it has exceptionally wide tree-lined streets and extremely diverse architecture — frame homes, ornate mansions, carriage houses, brownstones, brick rowhouses, elegant

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Joel Gordon and wife, Lisa Rosenberg, who moved from the Upper West Side of Manhattan to an apartment in Clinton Hill, Brooklyn; dwellings along St. James Place.

New York Times
February 8, 1987

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THIRD ANNUAL!! Special Prize for New York City History!

- **The Center for Brooklyn History will be awarding a special prize this year for projects centering New York City history.**
- **Need an idea? We've got you covered!**



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New York City history topics to consider:

Innovations

- **Bed-Stuy Restoration Development Corporation:** first neighborhood development corporation in the country
- **Isolating the break:** New Yorkers using turntable technology to create hip hop global movement
- **The Bloomberg Terminal:** technology changing the pace of banking on Wall Street
- **Air conditioning:** a printing factory solution to more than 90% of homes cooled in America
- **How does the Manhattan Project help usher in the nuclear age?**

Influence

- **Jacob Riis’ “How the Other Half Lives”** and moral suasion impacting policy
- **How do Spike Lee’s films change American cinema in the late 20th century?**
- **Street corner preachers in Harlem building the modern Civil Rights Movement**
- **How New York City’s “Yuppy” has influenced American consumer culture**
- **New York City’s women’s suffrage movement and the role of public demonstrations**
- **Jazz music’s evolution within New York City’s evolving social and racial dynamics**
- **How does Pop Art, and Andy Warhol’s Factory, change the way fine art is understood, produced (and priced)?**

Impact

- **1853, 1939, 1964 World's Fairs and their differing impact on New York City’s reputation as a site of global innovation**
- **1965 Hart-Celler Immigration Act:** A Brooklyn Congressman reshapes immigration policy
- **The City University of New York-** from radical offering of free education to an institution under fire
- **Shipping containerization**
- **The Croton Aqueduct and public health outcomes in New York**
- **The Stonewall Riots and the National LGBTQ movement**
- **George Balanchine’s New York City dance movement and the future of ballet**

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CBH is here to help!

- **Make a research appointment with us at the Center for Brooklyn History:**
cbhreference@bklynlibrary.org
- **Check out a book from your local library! You have a library card, right?**
It's not expired, right? Right?
- **Browse our online exhibitions and resource packets:**
<https://www.bklynlibrary.org/cbh/projects/online-projects>



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