Local: describe the people, events, and time under investigation.

- What happened?
- Who was involved?
- Where and when did it happen?
- How does this relate to other events/figures?
- How do we know that something happened?
- How does this person, event, or idea relate to local institutional themes, such as: leadership/government/local politics, place/space/location, labor/industry/employment, health/hospitals/institutions, education/institutions, transportation/technology/mass media, settlement/housing/community planning.

National and Regional: offer insights into broader historical themes or patterns.

- Why or how did something happen?
- Think about your research question in terms of broader thematic trends; how does your research subject fit within these trends?
- Think about your research question in terms of broader historical periods; what other historical events or subjects are taking place during your period of study?
- What arguments have historians made about these trends?
- Does your research subject fit within the movements of that time period? How and why?

Subject or Thematic: consider similar or dissimilar historical events and themes and draw connections to another region or period.

- What can these events tell us about broader subjects and themes?
- To which themes does your subject of study connect? How might historians of different topics or time periods interpret the same event?
- What are the prevailing interpretations of the history of these subjects or themes? Do your findings seem to support or challenge these historical trends?
- What types of language or frameworks do historians use to describe and discuss these themes? Are these effective lenses for understanding your subject?
- How do these subjects or themes connect from one time period to another?