

Fear Factor Project Pitch Form

Driving Question: How has fear been used as a political, defensive, and cultural tool to shape our society?

Big Idea: Conflict has been a powerful force in shaping our world.

Part One: Your Topic of Interest

So far in this project, I have found the topic of people's relationship to religion interesting. I found it interesting because ... (information or facts that you have gathered about the topic).

In texts, such as Hiroshima, I saw how some people turned to religion in the face of fear. They would either convert or join new religions. Some also moved away from religion in due to their fear, feeling as the religious figure they believe in, wasn't worth it because the person had to go through a traumatic experience.

Part Two: Developing an Inquiry Question

Narrow down the facets of your topic using the table below. Read the example to help!

Driving Question:	<i>How has fear been used as a political, defensive, and cultural tool to shape our society?</i>
General Topic:	<i>Religion</i>
Facets of Topic:	<i>Beliefs, ideology, behaviours, statistics, individuals values, traumatic experiences, types of religion</i>
Aspects or Event or Topic:	<i>Hiroshima, World War 2, Cold War</i>
Time Span:	<i>WW2 to current</i>
Place or Population (Demographics):	<i>Worldwide, individuals, families, world leaders</i>
Narrowed Inquiry Question:	<i>How does fear influence people's relation to religion?</i>

Example:

Driving Question:	<i>How has the explosive growth of technology and media reshaped society, culture, and individual identities?</i>
General Topic:	<i>Women's Health</i>
Facets of Topic:	<i>cancer, depression, eating disorders, health care</i>
Aspects or Event:	<i>business, history, legal, physical, psychological, social media</i>
Time Span:	<i>1990s; current</i>

Place or Population (Demographics):	African Americans, Hispanics, men, women, teenagers, United States
Narrowed Inquiry Question:	How does the media's portrayal of the ideal female body contribute to mental health issues in women?

Part Three: Justify Your Idea

1) I want to research the way humans interacted with aspects of religion after facing traumatic experiences. (topic)

2) because I want to find out how fear influences people's relation to religion. (issue/question)

3) in order to showcase to my audience that traumatic experiences make people turn to or away from religion. (application/so what?/audience/purpose).

Examples:

*I want to research speech impairments in children (**topic**) because I want to find out if an older sibling with a speech problem affects a younger sibling (**issue/question**) in order to convince my principal the need for family therapy (**application/audience**).*

*I want to research ethanol as an alternative fuel (**topic**) because I want to find out the pros and cons of its use and formulate my opinion (**issue/question**) in order to persuade my readers that my position is correct (**application/audience**).*

Part Four: Initial Research and Analysis

Provide a citation for at least five different sources you have discovered that contain information you think will be helpful to you as you focus your topic. These may be sources we have studied in class.

#1	https://nationalhumanitiescenter.org/tserve/twenty/tkeyinfo/trelww2.htm
#2	Turning Point: The Bomb and The Cold War
#3	1950s - Powerful Years for Religion
#4	JSTOR Changes in Religious Culture in Post War - JSTOR Rethink Societal
#5	NIH Religious/Spiritual Coping and the growth in Iraq & Afghanistan vets [current day]
#6	VA Addressing Religious Dimensions of Trauma
#7	HAVARD War increases [study]

This has led to me to further understand:

- When certain religions were most popular (or least popular)
- Religious trend in the 1950s
- The biological vs. analytic affect of region
- How religion is used as a coping mechanism for fear today

Ideas I have for first-hand research include.....

- Surveying people about what religion they support
- Interviewing people about how they became religious

Part Five: Synthesis and Presentation Ideas

I want to create a physical object to share my research and answer to my inquiry question.

This object will highlight the story and path, in which the stance on religion changes with fear. I want it to be an analogy of sorts because I feel that is a good way to connect thinking and show a deeper understanding of what I've learnt.

Some analogies that I've thought about so far:

- A Garden of Weeds: strong weeds grow alongside flowers, each representing a different faith. Even though people try to promote religious harmony, fear feeds the weeds, showing how some may turn to extreme beliefs when they feel their religion isn't enough during crises.

- A Broken Compass: representing religious guidance, but fractured and unreliable. This analogy illustrates how fear distorts individuals' moral compasses, leading them to seek comfort and direction in different religious traditions or abandoning faith altogether in the face of hardship.

- A House of Mirrors: reflects distorted images of religious figures and icons. When individuals conform their fear and trauma their perceptions of their religious figures become distorted, leading to skepticism of their faith.

These analogies are not solidified, and are more meant to be different ways to approach the certain aspects of my thoughts on people's relationship to religion in the face of fear. After doing more research I hope to have more knowledge where I can add connections and depth to elevate these ideas. Throughout this creation I am aiming to showcase a sophisticated understanding of how fear has been used as a cultural tool in shaping our society.

I also want this object able to let the audience wonder if fear wasn't induced in 20th century warfare... what would the religion look like today?

I think this will engage my audience because.....

It will give a visual and emotional analogy of the relationship between fear and religion. Through diving into the cultural aspect of this question "How has fear been used as a political, defensive, and cultural tool to shape our society?", it will hopefully engage my audience into the discussion of fear.