Breaking Barriers Northeast Ohio Topics List

Women’s History
- Women’s Education at Oberlin College
- Rebecca Rouse and the Soldiers’ Aid Society of Northern Ohio
- Anna Perkins breaking gender barriers in employment as a Cleveland “newsboy” in the 19th Century
- Flora Stone Mather founds the Goodrich House (a settlement house) in 1897
- Florence Ellinwood Allen, ardent suffragist and woman of many legal firsts
- Cleveland’s League of Women Voters innovates for voter education
- Women Pilots fly the Cleveland Air Races
- The Cleveland Orchestra – Adella Prentiss Hughes, Cleveland’s Female Impresario
- Almeda C. Adams, Cleveland Music School Settlement and Seeing Europe Through Sightless Eyes
- Margaret Bourke-White, pioneering female photographer (worked in Cleveland 1927-1929)
- Phyllis Wheatley Association and Jane Edna Hunter Breaking Barriers by helping single African-American women during the Great Migration
- Maternal Health Association of Cleveland, Ohio
- Dorothy Fuldheim and women in media
- Frances Payne Bolton becomes a Congresswoman
- Judith Resnick and the Challenger Explosion
- Cleveland Women Working/9to5, National Association of Working Women

African-American History
- Educating African Americans at Oberlin College
- The Lucy Bagby Fugitive Slave Case: Breaking Laws that Create Barriers to Freedom
- Urban League of Greater Cleveland’s role in Great Migration to Cleveland
- Garrett Morgan and His Inventions
- John P. Greene Cleveland’s first African-American elected official, delegate for William McKinley in the 1896 election, and the Ohio creator of “Labor Day”
- Mary B. Martin—a suffragist and the first African American woman elected to Cleveland Board of Education
- Kenneth W. Clement—physician, educator, and leader in Cleveland
- Fair Housing Movement (Fair Housing Inc., Plan of Action for Tomorrow’s Housing, Urban League of Cleveland, etc.) - Could focus on a particular neighborhood—Hough, Glenville, or Mount Pleasant in Cleveland or Ludlow and Lomond in Shaker Heights
- Charles Velmon Carr – Ordinances for Fairness in Housing and Access
- Karamu Theater Breaks Racial Barriers in Casting
- Euclid Beach Park Riot – August 1946
- Cleveland Hospital Association and/or Mercy Hospital Association and Forest City Hospital—desegregating Cleveland hospitals
• United Freedom Movement in Cleveland
• Phyllis Wheatley Association and Jane Edna Hunter Breaking Barriers by helping single African-American women during the Great Migration
• John O. Holly and The Future Outlook League breaking barriers for fair employment
• Cleveland School Desegregation – Busing Initiatives and Protests

Business and Labor History
• The Van Sweringen Brothers help open the suburbs to Cleveland’s first families
• John D. Rockefeller Removes Barriers Between Cleveland’s Oil Refineries
• The Garment Workers’ Strike of 1911
• The 1919 May Day Riots
• The Akron Rubber Strike of 1936
• The Fisher Body Sit-Down Strike of 1936
• The Little Steel Strike of 1937
• John O. Holly and The Future Outlook League breaking barriers for fair employment
• Cleveland Women Working/9to5, National Association of Working Women

Political History
• Joshua R. Giddings’ Fight Against Congressional Censorship
• Mayor Tom L. Johnson Against Monopolies
• Frances Payne Bolton becomes a Congresswoman
• Frank Lausche Breaks Nationality Barriers in Politics
• The Erieview Urban Renewal Plan in 1961
• Carl Stokes, first Black Mayor of a major American city
• Cuyahoga River Fire and Clean Water Act
• Howard Metzenbaum, US Senator and Master of the Filibuster
• Stephanie Tubbs-Jones breaks legislative barriers

Science, Medicine, and Technology History
• Cleveland State Hospital and the Kirkbride Plan Attempt to Eliminate Barriers to Mental Health
• The first Automobile Dealership, the fastest car, and long distance travel, how Alexander Winton broke into and dominated the early Auto Industry
• Michelson and Morley: Eliminating Intellectual Barriers to Further Research
• Dr. Benjamin Spock: Breaking Barriers to Child Development
• TRW and NASA John H. Glenn Research Center at Lewis Field breaking Earth’s barriers to space and the moon
• Judith Resnick and the Challenger Explosion

Sports History
• The Life of Moses Fleetwood Walker (Ohio Native, first black major league baseball player)
• Louis Sockalexis, first Native American baseball player, with the Cleveland Spiders
• Stella Walsh, Female Olympian for Poland and the United States
• Jesse Owens Breaks the Myth of Aryan Supremacy
• Bill Willis and Marian Motley break with NFL’s color barrier with the Cleveland Browns
• Larry Doby breaks the American League color barrier
• Charles Sifford breaks the Professional Golf Association (PGA) color barrier
• League Park – records broken, Negro League in Cleveland
• The evolution of protective gear in baseball and football (Ray Chapman’s death)

Social and Cultural History
• Early Chinese Immigration to Cleveland – A society of single men, barred from bringing their wives by the Chinese Exclusion Act
• E.W. Scripps Breaks the Rules of Cleveland Journalism
• Little Italy: An ethnic neighborhood eliminating barriers for immigrants
• Achievement Center for Children/Camp Cheerful – evolution of barrier-free spaces for disabled kids
• Cleveland Survey of Criminal Justice, 1921, and Barriers to Criminal Justice Reform in the 20th Century
• Karamu Theater Breaks Racial Barriers in Casting
• Bill Wilson and Alcoholics Anonymous
• On Leong Tong: A Chinese merchants association breaking barriers to entrepreneurship
• Cleveland churches ease barriers to Japanese resettlement in Cleveland during World War II
• Alan Freed and the Moondog Coronation Ball
• Shaker Lakes: how a community built a barrier by protest, stopped the construction of the I-290 Clark Freeway being built, and saved the land that would have been lost
Breaking Barriers in History Topic List
Suggestions from John Vacha, Emeritus Region 3 Ohio History Day Coordinator

Global History
- The Rosetta Stone Unlocks the Mystery of Egyptian Hieroglyphics
- Hannibal Crosses the Alps
- Caesar Crosses the Rubicon
- Breaking the Rules of Architecture in Gothic Cathedrals - Notre Dame/Henry Adams
- Columbus Challenges the Barrier of the "Ocean Sea"
- Henry VIII Breaks England Away from the Church of Rome
- Copernicus Reassembles the Solar System
- Women Break the Male Monopoly of England's Restoration Stage
- Parisians Storm the Bastille
- Beethoven Breaks the Confines of the Classical Symphony
- Commodore Matthew Perry Opens Japan to the West
- Sigmund Freud Unlocks the Door to the Subconscious
- Arnold Schoenberg Breaks the Rules of Tonality in Music
- Mahatma Gandhi Walks to the Sea for Salt
- Hitler Marches into the Rhineland
- Otto Hann and Fritz Strassmann Split the Atom
- The German Blitzkrieg Breaks the Maginot Line
- The Allies Crack Germany's Enigma Code
- Roger Bannister Breaks the Four-Minute Mile
- North Korea Crosses the 38th Parallel
- Sputnik Breaks into Space
- Nixon Goes to China
- Germans Dismantle the Berlin Wall
- "wWw - Zimmerman Telegram"

American History
- The Thirteen Colonies Break Ties with Great Britain
- Daniel Boone Crosses the Cumberland Gap
- Jedediah Smith Discovers South Pass Through the Rockies
- Frederick Douglas Breaks the Bonds of Slavery
- John Quincy Adams and the Campaign to Break the Gag Rule in Congress
- Elizabeth Blackwell Breaks the Male Monopoly in Medicine
- Dorothea Dix Breaks the Stigma of Mental Illness
- Henry David Thoreau Refuses to Pay His Taxes and Justifies Civil Disobedience
- "Breaking the Blacklist in Hollywood"
  Go Howard Silva/Dalton Trumbo
- General Sherman Cuts His Supply Line to March through Georgia
- Chinese Laborers Push the Central Pacific Railroad through the Sierra Nevada
- European immigrants Break Ties with Their "Old Country"
- The Supreme Court Breaks Up the Standard Oil Monopoly
- The Panama Canal Breaks the Land Barrier between Atlantic and Pacific
- Bert Williams Breaks the Color Barrier in the Ziegfeld Follies
- Breaking Barriers at the U.S. Supreme Court
  - Religious: Louis Brandeis
  - Racial: Thurgood Marshall
  - Gender: Sandra Day O'Connor
- The New Deal Breaks Conventional Economic Wisdom to Bring America Out of Depression
- Franklin D. Roosevelt Breaks the Presidential Two-Term Tradition, Disability, New Deal, Frances Perkins, Fireside chats
- Navy Codebreakers Crack Japan's Naval Code
- The Manhattan Project Breaks into the Atomic Age
- Jackie Robinson Breaks the Major League Color Barrier
- Chuck Yeager Breaks the Sound Barrier
- John F. Kennedy Breaks the Religious Barrier to the White House
- James Meredith Integrates "Ole Miss"
- Rosa Parks Breaks the Segregation Ordinance of Montgomery, Alabama
- Martin Luther King Practices Civil Disobedience in Birmingham Jail
- Otto Preminger and Dalton Trumbo Break the Hollywood Blacklist
- The Immigration Act of 1965 Eliminates the National-Origin Quota System
- Nixon's "Southern Strategy" Cracks the "Solid South"
- The "Stonewall Riots" for LGBT Rights.
- White House Burglars Break into Democratic Headquarters in the Watergate

Local History
- The Ohio and Erie Canal Opens an All-Water Route from Portsmouth to Cleveland
- Oberlin College Removes the Barrier between Blacks and Females to a College Education
- E.W. Scripps Breaks the Rules of Cleveland Journalism
- The Michelson-Morley Experiment Breaks Ground for Albert Einstein
- Newton D. Baker Breaks State Control over Local Home Rule
- Karamu Theater Breaks Racial Barriers in Casting
- Florence Allen Breaks through Legal Gender Barriers
- John O. Holly Breaks Racial Barriers to Hiring in Cleveland
- Breaking Racial, Religious and Gender Barriers at Western Reserve University
- Jesse Owens Breaks the Myth of Aryan Supremacy
- Larry Doby Breaks the American League's Color Barrier

* RTH - Cleveland - city to suburbs
  * Cleveland Browns - color barriers
• Zelma George Breaks Barriers in Theater and Diplomacy
• Frank Lausche Breaks Nationality Barriers in Politics
• Crossing the Color Line at Euclid Beach
• Real Estate Blockbusting Resegregates Housing on Cleveland's East Side
• Carl Stokes Becomes the First Black Mayor of a Major American City
• Elaine Hadden Breaks the Glass Ceilings on the Boards of Union Commerce Bank and CWRU

• Karamu House
• Anne O'Hare McCormick
• Katharine Graham & The Post
Rock and Roll History Topics

Music censorship
- Banned album covers
- Banned bands
- Censored songs
- Parents Music Resource Center (PMRC)

Music for Political and Peace Movements
- World War II
- Labor movements
- Student revolts of the 1960s
- Civil Rights
- Counterculture
- Vietnam War
- The South Bronx in the 1970s and 80s
- 9/11
- Riot grrrl movement
- LGBTQ+ Rights
- Rock & Roll in the Soviet Union

Benefit concerts
- Concert for Bangladesh
- Rock Against Racism
- Live Aid
- Farm Aid
- Band Aid
- Amnesty International
- Rock the Vote

Breaking racial barriers
- Mixed race concert venues in the ‘60s
- Motown tours through the South, meeting racial tension
- Beatles refuse to play segregated venues in the U.S.
- Nina Simone – politically themed music and activism
- Sam Cooke – civil rights activism; started a black-owned publishing co. & label
- Sister Rosetta Tharpe – racial & gender barriers as a black female guitarist in the ‘40s
- Prince/Michael Jackson and MTV – getting black artists played on MTV

Resources to help students get started:
Using Archives: a Guide to Effective Research - https://www2.archivists.org/usingarchives
Library & Archives Research Guides - http://library.rockhall.com/home/resources/research_guides