



## HIS 100 Module Four Activity Template: Historical Narratives

Identify the topic you chose to explore

- The Great Depression and the US Economy.

Attempt to write the APA style citations for your four sources. Include links to each source. You will not be penalized for incorrect citation format.

Roosevelt, F. D. (1933). Fireside Chat 1: On the Banking Crisis. National Archives.

<https://elischolar.library.yale.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=12267&context=ypfs-documents>

O'Brien, A. P. (1992). The Failure of the Bank of United States: A Defense of Joseph Lucia:

Note. *Journal of Money, Credit and Banking*, 24(3), 374–384.

<https://doi.org/10.2307/1992724>

*Anxious Depositors* | *DocsTeach*. (n.d.). Retrieved March 26, 2024, from

<https://www.docsteach.org/documents/document/anxious-depositors>



*Stock Market Crash of 1929* | *Federal Reserve History*. (n.d.). Retrieved March 25, 2024, from <https://www.federalreservehistory.org/essays/stock-market-crash-of-1929>

Compare the narratives in your primary and secondary sources relevant to your historical event.

- The narratives from Roosevelt's Fireside Chats and O'Brien's analysis provide distinct but complementary perspectives on The Great Depression's banking crisis. Roosevelt's approach, through Fireside Chats, aimed to restore public confidence, directly addressing the nation to reassure and inform, symbolizing a government's hands-on approach to crisis management. Conversely, O'Brien offers a detailed examination of the failure of specific banks, providing an analytical perspective on the systemic issues within the banking sector. While Roosevelt's narrative fosters a collective spirit and direct action against economic despair, O'Brien's account dissects the financial mechanisms contributing to the crisis. These narratives paint a multifaceted picture of The Great Depression, reflecting its broad societal impact—combining the personal leadership approach with analytical economic critique within the era's challenging economic, political, and social climate.

Describe one narrative that has significantly influenced the contemporary understanding of your historical event.

- Roosevelt's Fireside Chats is a profoundly influential narrative shaping contemporary understanding of The Great Depression. These chats were not merely presidential communications but strategic, empathetic dialogues that directly engaged the American



public during unprecedented economic despair. By candidly addressing fears and outlining the New Deal policies, Roosevelt offered immediate solace and fostered a sense of national unity and purpose. This narrative has profoundly impacted our historical perspective, illustrating the critical role of leadership in navigating crises. The Fireside Chats symbolize a government's capability to instill hope, drive reform, and fundamentally alter the economic landscape. They underscore the transformation of the banking system and the broader economy, marking a pivotal shift towards federal intervention and oversight in financial affairs.

Please provide your revised research question and explain how the chosen narrative helps you better understand your historical event.

- Roosevelt's Fireside Chats, as a narrative, significantly enriched the understanding of our research question: How did The Great Depression alter the structure of the U.S. banking system, and what were the long-term effects on the national economy? Through these chats, Roosevelt communicated the immediate actions taken to stabilize the banking sector and laid the groundwork for comprehensive reforms that would reshape the financial landscape for decades. This narrative highlights the effectiveness of direct public engagement and policy intervention during crises, demonstrating how leadership and clear communication can facilitate significant structural changes. By examining the Chats, we gain insight into the strategies deployed to mitigate the Depression's impacts, notably the introduction of regulatory frameworks and insurance mechanisms to prevent future collapses, fundamentally altering the banking system and influencing the national economy's long-term stability.
- Research Question: How did The Great Depression alter the structure of the U.S. banking system, and what were the long-term effects on the national economy?