Exhibition Proposal - MODEL

My guiding question (the question you intend on focusing your exhibition on):

___What is the per capita rate of incarceration among racial and/or ethnic lines in the United States, is this the same in other countries, and how has this rate changed over the years?_____

Briefly explain why you chose this question:

___I am interested in socio-political comparisons between the US and other countries. Are we as free and democratic as we say we are? Is our judicial system more just? Are we more tolerant of differences?

_____

Offer a more complex reason why you want to focus on this question. Explain any relevant examples, history you have studied, personal experiences with this topic, etc.

___It seems to me that we are becoming more and more of an oligarchy wherein a few at the top have the most power – over everything, including hospitals, schools, banks, the media and access to justice in the form of tax loopholes and high-powered lawyers. Those at the bottom have little access to health care, education, property, savings which beget additional savings, etc, and are hence more likely to one day be incarcerated – whether or not they are guilty. Are we alone in this? Is this purely an American phenomenon? My friend Ellis was framed and incarcerated. He was black and lived in the projects, and even though he was innocent, he was encouraged by his public defender to plea bargain and was therefore incarcerated. Had he been able to afford a lawyer, he would have been exonerated._____

Create a list of 4-5 sub-questions that you will have to answer and explore in order to thoroughly research and understand your chosen topic.

First, I have to arrive at a possible thesis. Mine would be "The US has the highest rate of incarcerating Blacks than any other industrialized nation." I would then do research to see if this is in fact true. And I would make sure to answer the following sub questions:

1. What does "Black" mean? Define the term.
2. What does "industrialized" mean? Define the term.
3. Which industrialized countries are the most relevant? Which are the most similar to the US?
4. During what time span? During which years?
5. What are the various reasons for this increased rate of incarceration? What are at least three?

TO BE FILLED OUT AND SIGNED BY A TEACHER:

Circle one: Proposal Approved Proposal Denied
Explain why:

Date: _____

Teacher Signature: _____