Noble Rivalries- Godwineson vs. Leofwinesons

- 1051- Godwine and family banished by Edward the Confessor
- Aelfgar becomes Earl of East Anglia- replacing the Godwinesons
- Godwine and his sons reconciled 1052
- Aelfgar deprived of earldom of East Anglia
- Aelfgar exiled in 1055
- Political rivalries are about land, status and wealth and are reflected in the very narrative sources of the period.
- There are fragmentations in Edward the Confessor’s rule- he played the families against one another

How did competing claims to English Kingship arise?

- Harold’s claim:
  - Harold Godwineson marries Edith, a sister of the Leofineson earls, Eadwine and Morcar in 1064
  - Harold’s brother, Tostig, earl of Northumbria, is driven out of his earldom by the people
  - Harold tries to make peace with the Northumbrians with the Leofwinesons
  - Tostig very annoyed leaves England and allies with Harald Hardrada
  - HAROLD- PREMIER MAGNATE IN ENGLAND

- William’s claim:
  - William and Normandy supports Edward the Confessor’s claim to the throne
  - And William expects the same from Edward upon his death
  - Norman sources are clear- the oath in 1064 put William as the heir to the throne of England
  - The fact that Harold was killed at Hastings suggests that he had no claim to the throne.
  - Edward the Confessor uses the role as heir to the throne to get support of key people in England and big supports to him because he knows that he has no children

What happened in 1066?

- The Bayeux Tapestry
- Battle of Stamford Bridge- Harold Godwineson is fighting the Norwegians led by Harold Hardrada- amazing military victory for King Harold of England
- Harold has to march down to Hastings where he would meet William the Conqueror in 1066
- The English shield wall- English fighting on foot the Normans on horses
- Normans break this wall through their use of cavalry and archers- difference between the way these two armies are fighting- begins to develop in the 1070’s that the way in which the English fought this battle is why they lost
- Anglo- Saxon chronicle suggests William conquered England after Battle of Hastings

Risings after William’s coronation in December 1066 at Westminster Abbey:

- 1067- invasion of Harold’s sons, Godewine and Harold
- 1067- Eustace of Boulogne