**WORKSHEET: THESIS DEVELOPMENT**

**Sample: Rosa Parks and the Montgomery Bus Boycott**

**WHO**: Who was involved? Who was affected? Rosa Parks; citizens in Montgomery, Alabama; civil rights leaders, Montgomery’s city government officials.

**WHAT**: What happened? What was the main event? Rosa Parks refused to give up her bus seat to a white passenger, which violated a law enforcing segregation on Montgomery city buses. She was arrested and went to jail. Civil rights leaders, including Martin Luther King, Jr., organized a boycott of buses and challenged the law as unconstitutional.

**WHERE**: Where was/were the place(s) it took place? Montgomery, Alabama

**WHEN**: When did it happen? How long of a time period was it? Parks was arrested on Dec. 1, 1955; the boycott started on Dec. 5 and lasted for 381 days.

**WHY**: Why did it happen? What caused it? Civil rights leaders wanted to overturn segregation laws.

**WHY**: Why is it important? What were the outcomes? The boycott forced change in Montgomery and succeeded in overturning the law requiring segregation on public transportation. This success inspired other civil rights protests and helped Martin Luther King, Jr. develop his non-violent strategies to fight segregation.

**THEME CONNECTION: Taking a Stand History**

* **What is the topic’s connection to taking a stand?** Martin Luther King, Jr. was a leader for the Civil Rights movement and was inspired by the results of the Montgomery Bus Boycott to lead others towards non-violent protests. King's leadership also helped to organize the boycott that eventually ended with ­a Supreme Court decision.
* **What is the significance of your topic?** Martin Luther King, Jr.’s stand earned him national prominence as a civil rights leader that effectively worked to end segregation in the United States. His actions helped organize other civil rights leaders towards non-violent protests that effectively worked to change laws for a more equal society that are still in effect today.

**Put it all together into a thesis statement**. In 1955, Rosa Parks took a stand against segregation when she refused to give up her bus seat to a white passenger in Montgomery, Alabama. Martin Luther King, Jr. helped organized the 381 day bus boycott, which earned King national prominence as a civil rights leader and inspired him to organize other non-violent protests, resulting in significant legal cases that changed segregation laws in

the United States.

Name:

**WORKSHEET: THESIS DEVELOPMENT**

**TOPIC**:

**WHO**: Who was involved? Who was affected?

**WHAT**: What happened? What was the main event?

**WHERE**: Where was/were the place(s) it took place?

**WHEN**: When did it happen? How long of a time period was it?

**WHY**: Why did it happen? What caused it?

**WHY**: Why is it important? What were outcomes?

**CONNECTION TO THEME: Taking a Stand in History**

 What is the topic’s connection to taking a stand?

 What is the significance of your topic?

**Put it all together into a thesis statement.**

**What evidence have you found that supports your thesis?**