WORKSHEET: FOCUSING HISTORY DAY TOPICS

Topic choices generally start out too broad. We use the funnel to narrow our topics to more manageable ones. Remember: History Day projects are not huge. If your topic is too big, it’s going to be challenging to fit everything you want into your project.

Theme
Start by thinking about the theme for History Day this year.

General Interest
Narrow down to a general area of history that interests you.

Broad Topic
What are some general topics are connected to that area of history?

Narrow Topic
Narrow the broad topic to something more specific. Consider location, person, or event.

Thesis
Your thesis will address specific issues or ideas related to your topic.

Conflict and Compromise in History

Women’s History

Voting Rights

Susan B. Anthony

Research Questions

SAMPLE TOPIC NARROWING FUNNELS

Amendments

First Amendment

Symbolic Speech

Texas v. Johnson
1989

Symbolic speech, no matter how offensive to some, is protected under the first amendment

Civil Rights

Denial of Rights

Jim Crow Laws

Brown vs. Board of Education

Segregated schools violate the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment