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.

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**Exploration, Encounter, Exchange in History**

**Women’s History**

**Voting Rights**

**Susan B. Anthony**

**Research Questions**

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**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**

*Loving v. Virginia* 1966

Violation of equal protection under the 14th amendment

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National History Day in Minnesota