

2015: Thesis Development Worksheet

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: Leadership & Legacy in History

How is your topic connected to leadership? _____

How is your topic connected to legacy? _____

Put it all together into a thesis statement.

Can you prove it? _____

How? Explain. _____

Thesis Development Example

TOPIC: 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, Martin Luther King, Jr.

WHAT: What happened? What was the main event? Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a public bus, which violated a city law requiring segregation. She was arrested and went to jail. Civil rights leaders organized a boycott of city buses to challenge the law as unconstitutional. The economic impact of the boycott forced city leaders and the bus company to enter into negotiation with civil rights leaders.

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. This success inspired Martin Luther King Jr. to organize similar protests helping end segregation and secure greater equality.

CONNECTION TO THEME: Leadership and Legacy in History

- How is your topic connected to leadership? 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. His leadership also helped organize the boycott that eventually ended with a successful Supreme Court lawsuit.
- How is your topic connected to legacy? Martin Luther King, Jr.'s actions 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 was arrested when she refused to give up her bus seat to a white passenger in Montgomery, Alabama. Martin Luther King, Jr. helped organize the 381 day bus boycott that resulted in Supreme Court victory, which earned King national prominence as a civil rights leader and inspired him to organize other non-violent protests.