Focusing Topics with Your Students

The Funnel:

Topic choices generally start out too broad, so we use the funnel to narrow our topics to more manageable ones.

Choose a preliminary topic area. Then move beyond providing only broad details about the item, time or person.

Narrow down to a specific time period, person involved event or place.

From there, narrow further to an event in the time period, specific aspect of a leader or ask questions about their legacy.

Draw conclusions; demonstrate the significance of this relationship with taking a stand in history.

Civil War
- Union Tactics
  - General William Sherman
    - March to the Sea Campaign
      - Sherman’s decision and battle tactics left a legacy of turning the tide of the Civil war

WWII
- US Involvement
  - Ending the War with Japan
    - Dropping of Atomic Bomb
      - Truman’s decision to drop the atomic bomb left a lasting legacy on war practices

Civil Rights
- Denial of Rights
  - Jim Crow Laws
    - Loving v. Virginia 1966
      - Richard and Mildred Loving leading the way for integrated marriage