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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**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