

This year’s National History Day theme, “Conflict & Compromise in History,” will inspire a variety of topics. As you think about your interests - politics, art, community, military history, or something else - remember that your topic must connect to the theme.

Both theme words are nouns and verbs. This means you have many definitions to consider. Any of the definitions would be a good way to connect your topic to the theme.

Conflict	Compromise
<p>Noun:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a fight, a disagreement • a mental struggle 	<p>Noun:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a way of reaching agreement where a person or group gives up something they wanted in order to end the disagreement • a change that makes something worse
<p>Verb:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to fight or battle • to disagree • to feel mentally torn between ideas 	<p>Verb:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to give up something that you want in order to reach agreement; to accept standards that are lower than desirable • to expose something to risk or danger; damage, or weaken

Definitions adapted from Merriam Webster English Language Learner's Dictionary

When selecting a topic, think beyond military conflicts or politics. For example:

- **Parental Advisory Labels** were introduced in 1985 by the Recording Industry of America to make consumers aware of explicit lyrics and content, which some felt were inappropriate for young listeners. Some saw this as censorship, putting the interests of concerned parents in conflict with artists, resulting in artists having to compromise their music by releasing edited versions.
- Tommie Smith and John Carlos refused to compromise with the **1968 Olympic** policies against political protest in order to raise awareness about the ongoing conflict for racial equality in the United States.

You may focus on conflict **or** compromise for your project. **If a topic includes both ideas, however, you need to talk about both in your project.** If you discuss both ideas, they do not need to be equal. One idea be may more important to your topic.

At first, it may be easier to figure out a connection between your topic and the idea of conflict. This is a good place to start, but don’t stop there. Keep looking for how “compromise” may appear. You could discuss either theme connection before, during, or after the main events of your topic.

There’s no magic formula for success with this year’s theme. The theme is flexible and can connect to any conflict or compromise that had a significant impact in history. **You should try to include conflict or compromise in your thesis statement. If your topic connects to both, you can include both in your thesis, but that’s not required by History Day.**

History Day students will need to **pay attention to point of view** when researching and presenting their topic. The ideas of conflict and compromise both involve two or more perspectives. It’s important for you to understand what all sides wanted and why, even if you don’t agree. These different opinions could happen between groups or individuals, or there could be different opinions within a group. For example:

*By the early 1900s, women had been actively fighting for the right to vote for decades. **Alice Paul and the National Woman's Party** came into conflict with other factions of the suffrage movement when they advocated more aggressive tactics to gain attention and support for the movement.*

Good luck and Happy History Day!