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

National History Day in Minnesota