

# WORKSHEET: THESIS DEVELOPMENT

## Sample: The Montgomery Bus Boycott

**WHO:** Who was involved? Who was affected? *Rosa Parks, Citizens in Montgomery, Civil Rights Movement leaders, Montgomery's government officials*

**WHAT:** What happened? What was the opposition? To what extent was it overcome? *Rosa Parks refused to give up her bus seat to a white passenger, which violated a law enforcing segregation on Montgomery city buses. She was arrested and went to jail. Civil rights leaders, including Martin Luther King, Jr., organized a boycott of buses and challenged the law as unconstitutional.*

**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? *Rosa Parks was arrested on December 1, 1955. The boycott started on December 5 and lasted for 381 days.*

**WHY:** Why did it happen? What caused it? *Civil Rights Movement leaders wanted to overturn segregation laws. Rosa Parks attended training for non-violent protest at the Highlander Folk School.*

**WHY:** Why is it important? What were the outcomes? *The boycott forced change in Montgomery and succeeded in overturning the law requiring segregation on public transportation. This success inspired other Civil Rights Movement protests and helped Martin Luther King, Jr. develop nonviolent strategies to fight segregation.*

**THEME CONNECTION: Taking a Stand in History** What meaningful connections have you found between your topic and this year's theme?

<b>Taking a Stand</b>	<b>For or Against an Issue?</b>	<b>Impact</b>
Parks <u>took a stand</u> against segregation by refusing to give up her bus seat for a white passenger.	Rosa Parks deliberately <u>opposed</u> segregation enforced under the Jim Crow laws.	The idea of non-violent protest was <u>adapted nationwide</u> , from the Montgomery Bus Boycott to other parts of the Civil Rights Movement.

**Put it all together into a thesis statement.**

In 1955, Rosa Parks took a stand against segregation by refusing to give up her bus seat to a white passenger in Montgomery, Alabama. Her arrest allowed Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., to explore non-violent protest strategies during the 381 day bus boycott, which put him in the national spotlight as a civil rights leader.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## WORKSHEET: THESIS DEVELOPMENT

**TOPIC:** \_\_\_\_\_

**WHO:** Who was involved? Who was affected?

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**WHAT:** What happened? What was the main event? What was the opposition? To what extent was it overcome?

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**WHERE:** Where was/were the place(s) it took place?

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**WHEN:** When did it happen? How long of a time period was it?

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**WHY:** Why did it happen? What caused it?

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**WHY:** Why is it important? What were outcomes?

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**CONNECTION TO THEME: Taking a Stand in History:** What meaningful connections have you found between your topic and this year's theme?

Taking a Stand	For or Against an Issue	Impact

**Put it all together into a thesis statement.**

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**What evidence have you found from primary source materials that supports your thesis?**

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