

Thesis Development Worksheet

TOPIC: _____

WHO: Who was involved? Who was affected? _____

WHAT: What happened? What was the main event? _____

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

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

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

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

CONNECTION TO THEME: Turning Points in History: People, Ideas, Events

Why is your topic a turning point? _____

What was happening before your turning point? How was it different after? _____

Put it all together into a thesis statement.

Can you prove it? _____

How? Explain. _____

Thesis Development Example

TOPIC: Rosa Parks and the Montgomery Bus Boycott

WHO: Who was involved? Who was affected? Rosa Parks; citizens in Montgomery, Alabama; civil rights leaders, Montgomery's city government officials.

WHAT: What happened? What was the main event? Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a public bus, which violated a city law requiring segregation. She was arrested and went to jail. Civil rights leaders organized a boycott of city buses to challenge the law as unconstitutional. The economic impact of the boycott forced city leaders and the bus company to enter into negotiation with civil rights leaders.

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? Parks was arrested on Dec. 1, 1955; the boycott started on Dec. 5 and lasted for 382 days.

WHY: Why did it happen? What caused it? Civil rights leaders wanted to overturn segregation laws.

WHY: Why is it important? What were the outcomes? The boycott forced change in Montgomery and succeeded in overturning the law requiring segregation. This success inspired similar protests helping end segregation and secure greater equality.

CONNECTION TO THEME: Turning Points in History: People, Ideas, Events

Why is your topic a turning point? Before the Montgomery Bus Boycott, public buses in Montgomery, Alabama were segregated. The Boycott became a turning point in Montgomery after the bus company ended its segregation policy.

What was happening before your turning point? What happened after? Before the Montgomery Bus Boycott, the majority of the South, including Montgomery, Alabama, was segregated by race. Buses, restaurants, movie theatres, etc. After the boycott, the public buses in Montgomery became integrated and other communities used strategies from Montgomery to create change in their cities and towns.

Put it all together into a thesis statement. **In 1955 Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat at the front of the bus in Montgomery, Alabama. The Bus Boycott that followed for the next 382 days was a turning point in the American Civil Rights Movement because it led to the successful integration of the bus system in Montgomery. Because of the boycott, other cities and communities followed suit, leading to the further desegregation in the United States.**

Can you prove it? Yes

How? Explain: City officials and the bus company refused to come to a compromise over segregation on buses until the boycott made a significant financial impact. Other civil rights leaders sent letters and requests to boycott participants seeking advice to start similar protests. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. used what he learned in Montgomery and applied it in other cities. These are documented in meeting minutes, testimonials, newspaper articles, letters, speeches, and a timeline of events.