

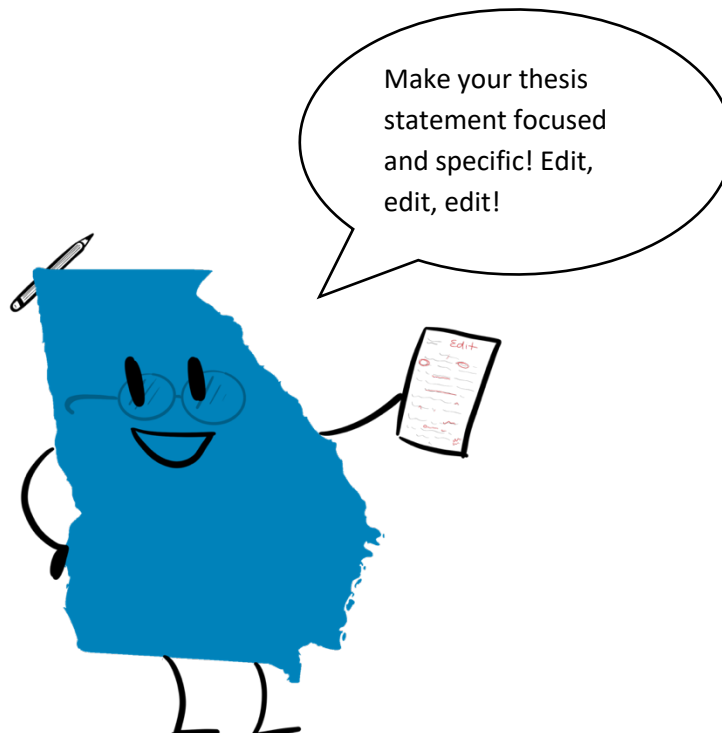
With your research nearing completion it's time to begin analyzing your information and drawing conclusions. Your goal is make an argument, related to the theme, and clearly making a case about the significance of your topic to history. This argument is known as your thesis statement, it is the **central focus of your entire History Day project**.

### Thesis Statements

Regardless of the category you eventually decide upon, your thesis statement, your argument, must be the centerpiece of your work. You will want your thesis statement to be a part of the introduction and conclusion of a paper, website, performance or documentary, the clear and central to your exhibit. It is the essential point you want to make through your work!

You must use your thesis statement as a guide to the construction of your project. **Every component of your project MUST support your thesis!**

Writing a thesis statement can be challenging, hard work. You'll want to edit, revise and rewrite your thesis statement throughout. Use the worksheet included in this packet to help you get started but remember: **effective scholars and writers revise their work throughout the process!**



Remember your **research questions!** They can help when developing your thesis statement. The answers to your research questions can be the basis for a good thesis statement.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS	SAMPLE THESIS
Why did Rosa Parks refuse to give up her seat on the bus? What other events were going on in the Civil Rights Movement? What impact did her actions have on the Civil Rights movement?	In 1955, Rosa Parks was arrested when she refused to give up her bus seat to a white passenger in Montgomery, Alabama. In response, Martin Luther King, Jr. lead activists and the African American people of Montgomery through a 381 day bus boycott, which resulted in a triumphant Supreme Court battle for desegregation.



**Remember your theme connection!**

As you are thinking about developing your thesis statement, remember to think again about the theme. The strongest History Day projects will weave the central ideas of the theme into the thesis as well as the project.

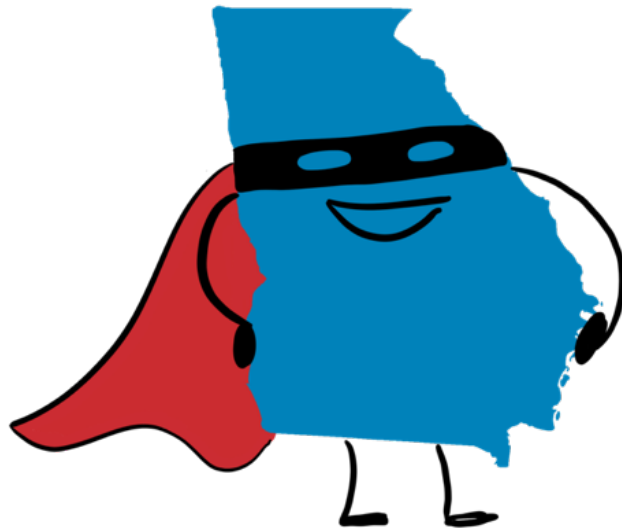
Try to get the key words into your thesis and consider using them in your section headings to text. You can use variations of the theme words because what’s most important is that the concepts, the ideas of the theme are in your project.

**Historical Context**

Your topic did not occur in a vacuum. Nothing in history ever does. Everything that happened in history did so in a world full of forces influencing/interacting with your topic. Understanding that context and effectively communicating it is critical to a successful History Day project. Remember, the environment, the context is fundamental to your topic and you want to do your best to understand that historical context.

Remember too that a thorough understanding of your topic’s historical context will make your argument for the significance of your topic to history more powerful.

Remember: Context  
empowers  
Significance!



# **WORKSHEET: THESIS STATEMENTS**

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**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?

## **THEME CONNECTION: TURNING POINTS IN HISTORY**

Now, put it together into a thesis statement

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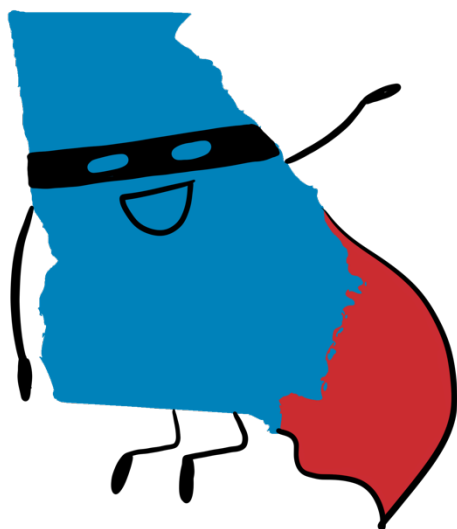
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# HISTORICAL CONTEXT & SIGNIFICANCE

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## CONTEXT

How was the setting important?
What people/movements influenced it?
What people, ideas or events took place at the same time they were related to your topic?
What were the main events occurring before your topic? What caused it to happen?



## SIGNIFICANCE

Why was your topic significant in history?
What were the immediate results of your topic?
What long term changes took place because of your topic?
Did your topic influence people, ideas or events afterwards?

