

# national history day MN

## Student Research Workbook

Updated: Summer 2022

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Name

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History Day Topic

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Class Period

We have designed this workbook to help you through one of the most important parts of the History Day process—research! Take your notes right in this packet! Keep it in a safe place. If you have questions, you can ask your teacher or visit the Minnesota History Day website: <https://www.mnhs.org/historyday>



When you see this symbol, you will need to make multiple copies of that page.

# Download Editable Versions of the Research Workbook

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Follow the links below to download your own, editable versions (**Google Slides files**) of the following research resources. After you open the link, click on **File > Make a Copy** to download your own.

Need more than one page? In the same document, click on **Slide > Duplicate Slide**.

Sections of My Project ..... <https://bit.ly/3lBUld2>

Primary and Secondary Source Brainstorm ..... <https://bit.ly/3lNuiRR>

Illustration and Media Brainstorm ..... <https://bit.ly/3lEp4vy>

## **CORNELL NOTES**

Heart of the Story or During My Topic ..... <https://bit.ly/2Dhwiln>

Build-Up or Right Before My Topic ..... <https://bit.ly/3lNT20i>

Background or Long Before My Topic ..... <https://bit.ly/3lAO4vP>

Short-Term Impact or Right After My Topic .. <https://bit.ly/2QL75oQ>

Long-Term Impact or Long After My Topic ... <https://bit.ly/3lDVtT6>

Write Your History Day Thesis ..... <https://bit.ly/3lE1zCY>

## **WRITE YOUR TEXT**

Heart of the Story or During ..... <https://bit.ly/2QISnPl>

Build-Up or Right Before ..... <https://bit.ly/2YOxi9R>

Background or Long Before ..... <https://bit.ly/3iyVm9h>

Short-Term Impact or Right After ..... <https://bit.ly/3gLm8JJ>

Long-Term Impact or Long After ..... <https://bit.ly/3iAs8qF>

## **SOURCE CARDS**

Book ..... <https://bit.ly/3iydWvh>

Website ..... <https://bit.ly/2QFDTQi>

Database..... <https://bit.ly/3gLPPus>

Illustration ..... <https://bit.ly/3lDh503>

Encyclopedia ..... <https://bit.ly/2GinizO>

Newspaper ..... <https://bit.ly/3iyYF19>

# Research and Sections of a History Day Project

Research is the most important part of a History Day project. You will read **sources** (books, articles, websites, and more) and take notes. You will learn why your topic is important in history. You will use this information to create your History Day project and to write the thesis and text for each section of your project.

**Go beyond researching just what happened during the main events of your topic.** You need to learn about what happened before, during, and after your topic.

The information that you find in each of these areas will be part of your final project. **Each type of History Day project should have sections to discuss what happened before, during, and after the main events of your topic.** These might be:

- Sections on an Exhibit
- Pages on a Website
- Segments of a Documentary
- Scenes in a Performance

## Before

## During

## After

<p><b>Background or Long Before the Event</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What background information does your reader need to know about your topic?</li> <li>• What events, ideas, or people happened before your topic to influence it?</li> <li>• What was going on in the world?</li> </ul>	<p><b>Heart of the Story or During the Event</b></p> <p>Look for the 5W's and an H:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What happened?</li> <li>• How did it happen?</li> <li>• When did it happen?</li> <li>• Why did it happen?</li> <li>• Who was involved or affected?</li> <li>• Where did it happen?</li> </ul>	<p><b>Short-Term Impact or Right After the Event</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are some things that happened or changed right away?</li> <li>• Think about positive and negative changes.</li> <li>• How did this event impact different groups of people?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Build-Up or Right Before the Event</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Who are the main players?</li> <li>• What are they doing to get ready for the main events of your topic?</li> <li>• What events or ideas led up to the main event?</li> <li>• What was life like at this time?</li> </ul>		<p><b>Long-Term Impact or Long After the Event</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• So what?</li> <li>• Why is your topic important in history?</li> <li>• How has your topic changed history?</li> <li>• Why is the event still important today?</li> </ul>

Time

# Figuring Out the Sections of Your Project

How do you know what goes in each section of YOUR project?

1. Start with the **Heart of the Story**. This should include the main events you're focusing on in your thesis.
2. Next, go to the **Build-Up**. What happened right before the main event? Think of it as the "spark" to what happened in the Heart of the Story.
3. Now, go to the **Background**. What bigger ideas and issues (historical context) does your viewer need to understand before your Build-Up and Heart? Describe the big issues or problems going on before the main events.
4. Now, you can outline the **Short-Term Impact**. What happened right away because of your topic?
5. Last, think about the **Long-Term Impact**. Explain major changes and how your topic connects to larger trends in history.

## Before

## During

## After

<p><b>Background or Long Before the Event</b></p> <p>What happened long before your topic? This is the historical context, or big picture.</p> <p>What background information does your reader need to know about topic? What events, ideas, or people influenced it? What was going on in the world?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3</p>	<p><b>Heart of the Story or During the Event</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">1</p> <p><b>Start here! What is the main event that you're focusing on in your project?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>What</b> happened? Include important details.</li> <li>• <b>How</b> did it happen?</li> <li>• <b>When</b> did it happen?</li> <li>• <b>Why</b> did it happen?</li> <li>• <b>Who</b> was involved or affected?</li> <li>• <b>Where</b> did it happen?</li> </ul>	<p><b>Short-Term Impact or Right After the Event</b></p> <p>These are the events "right after your topic."</p> <p>What changed right away? Think about positive and negative changes. How did your topic impact different groups of people?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">4</p>
<p><b>Build-Up or Right Before the Event</b></p> <p>Think about it as "the spark" for the main events.</p> <p>What events or ideas led up to the main event? What inspired people to get involved? Be more specific than the background section.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2</p>		<p><b>Long-Term Impact or Long After the Event</b></p> <p>These are the events that happened "long after your topic."</p> <p>Take a step back. How are things different because of your topic? How has your topic changed history?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">5</p>

→ **Time** →

## Fill It Out: Sections of My Project

Write down the information you would want to include for each part of your History Day topic below. Include what happened **BEFORE, DURING,** and **AFTER** THE MAIN EVENTS OF YOUR TOPIC.

<b>Before</b>	<b>During</b>	<b>After</b>
<p><b>Background or Long Before the Event</b></p>	<p><b>Heart of the Story or During the Event</b></p>	<p><b>Short-Term Impact or Right After the Event</b></p>
<p><b>Build-Up or Right Before the Event</b></p>		<p><b>Long-Term Impact or Long After the Event</b></p>



# Primary and Secondary Sources

You will look at many types of sources for your History Day project. Historians put sources into two categories: **Primary Sources** and **Secondary Sources**. Think about the author of the source to figure out if a source is primary or secondary.

## What is a Primary Source?

Primary sources are connected to your topic by time or participation. Primary sources were:

- Created during the time of the event, or
- Created by someone who participated in the event first-hand.

### Examples of Primary Sources:

- Historic objects
- Manuscript collections
- Interviews with participants
- Autobiographies
- Music from the period
- Government records
- Newspapers from the era
- Letters
- Photographs
- Original film footage

## What is a Secondary Source?

Secondary sources are created after an historical event. The author of a secondary source was not an eyewitness to, or a participant in, the historic event.

### Examples of Secondary Sources:

- Biographies
- History textbooks
- Books about the topic
- Encyclopedias
- Media documentaries
- Interviews with scholars/experts
- Websites

## Don't Make These Common Mistakes

- **A "primary" source doesn't mean it was your most important source.** Think about how the author is connected to the topic and when the source was made to help you decide if the source is "primary" or not.
- **It doesn't matter if you are looking at the original copy of a source.** So long as a copy keeps the same wording or is the same image as the original, the copy still counts as a primary source.
- **Yes, primary sources can be created after your topic took place.** If the author took part in the topic, it is still a primary source, even if they wrote it later.
- **An interview is not always a primary source.** If the person you are interviewing did NOT experience the topic first-hand, it's not a primary source. An interview with a professor or historian is NOT a primary source, unless they were a part of your main event or topic.
- **Go beyond just photos for your primary sources.** You can probably learn more from looking at newspapers, letters, diaries, or documents than a photo.
- **Not all images are primary sources.** Only photos or other images made at the time of the event or by someone who participated first-hand are primary sources.
- **Beware of short quotes attributed to your historical person.** A quote should come from a full source, not from a website or book of quotes. Reading the context of the quote will help you to understand the quote's meaning and know that it was by the historical person you are studying.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class Period: \_\_\_\_\_

# Primary and Secondary Source Brainstorm

**1. What are some important words, dates, or people related to your topic?** These words will help you to search for sources. When searching the internet, use key words instead of typing in questions. Remember to check spelling!

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\_\_\_\_\_

**2. What types of secondary sources might exist about your topic?** Circle the types of sources you think you could find about your topic.

- |                  |                   |              |                        |
|------------------|-------------------|--------------|------------------------|
| Book             | Video Documentary | Encyclopedia | Interview with Scholar |
| History Textbook | Biography         | Website      |                        |

**3. What types of primary sources might exist about your topic?** Circle the types of sources you think you could find about your topic.

- |                            |                       |                    |                                 |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| Diary                      | Manuscript Collection | Government Records | Historic Objects or Sites       |
| Interview with Participant | Autobiography         | Photographs        | Newspapers from the Time Period |
| Original Film Footage      | Music of the Period   | Letters            |                                 |

**4. Where can you go to find this information?** Answer the following questions and think about the places you could look for sources.

	Tried it!	Doesn't work for my topic.
<b>School Library</b> —Name:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Public Library</b> —Name:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>College/University Library</b> —Name:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>History Textbook</b> —Title:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Electronic Library of Minnesota</b> ( <a href="http://www.elibrarymn.org">www.elibrarymn.org</a> )		
Encyclopedia Britannica	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Academic Search Premier	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ProQuest	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gale in Context	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Minnesota Historical Society</b>		
MNopedia ( <a href="http://www.mnopedia.org">www.mnopedia.org</a> )	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Library Guides ( <a href="http://libguides.mnhs.org">http://libguides.mnhs.org</a> )	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Minnesota History Magazine ( <a href="http://www.mnhs.org/market/mhspress/minnesotahistory/">www.mnhs.org/market/mhspress/minnesotahistory/</a> )	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Google</b>		
Google Search	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Targeted Search: "Primary Sources" or "History" plus your topic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Google Books ( <a href="http://www.books.google.com">www.books.google.com</a> )	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Other idea:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Other idea:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

# Illustration and Media Brainstorm

You will need illustrations or media to create projects in almost all of the History Day categories. **Be creative and brainstorm more than just photographs.** Circle the types of media and illustrations you think you could find about your topic. Write notes about the sources you might find.



### Photographs

The most obvious source for illustrations is photographs. Look for high-resolution images, which will show up better in projects. Remember: Photography wasn't invented until the 1820s.

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### Artwork

Did artists represent your topic through painting, drawing, or sculpture?

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### Maps

Try historic or current maps to help your viewer understand where your topic happened.

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### Political Cartoons

Most political cartoons were created at the same time as an event.

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### Newspapers

Headlines from newspapers can be eye-catching illustrations.

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### Film Footage

Moving pictures weren't invented until the late 1890s. For topics after this, try looking for primary source footage.

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### Music or Sound Recording

Look for recorded music, sound, sheet music, or compositions from the time period. Remember, sound wasn't recorded until the 1860s.

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### Interviews

You could conduct your own interview with a participant or expert, or look for one that has already been recorded.

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### Artifacts

Artifacts could include a variety of objects, like clothing, buildings, or other items from museum collections.

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### Charts and Graphs

Graphs and charts are great ways to show information in an easy to understand format.

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### Documents

Documents, like letters or vital records, can be interesting visuals in a project.

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### Ephemera

These are things that were meant to be used only for a short time, like movie tickets, posters, or postcards.

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### Propaganda or Ads

These illustrations, often posters or advertisements, were created to persuade people.

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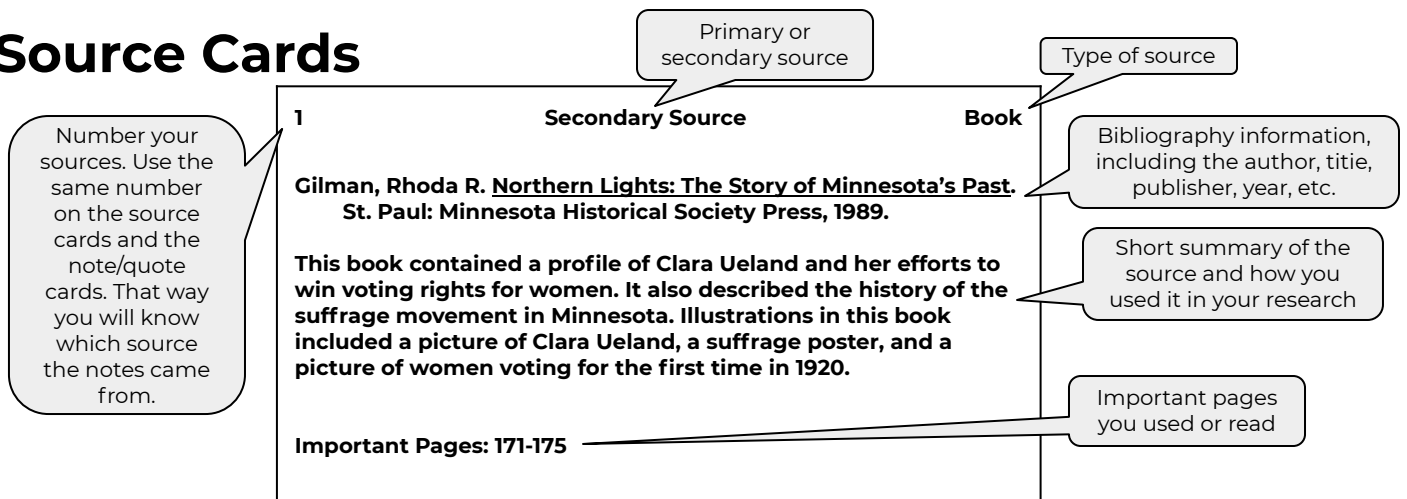


# Organizing Information #1: Index Card System

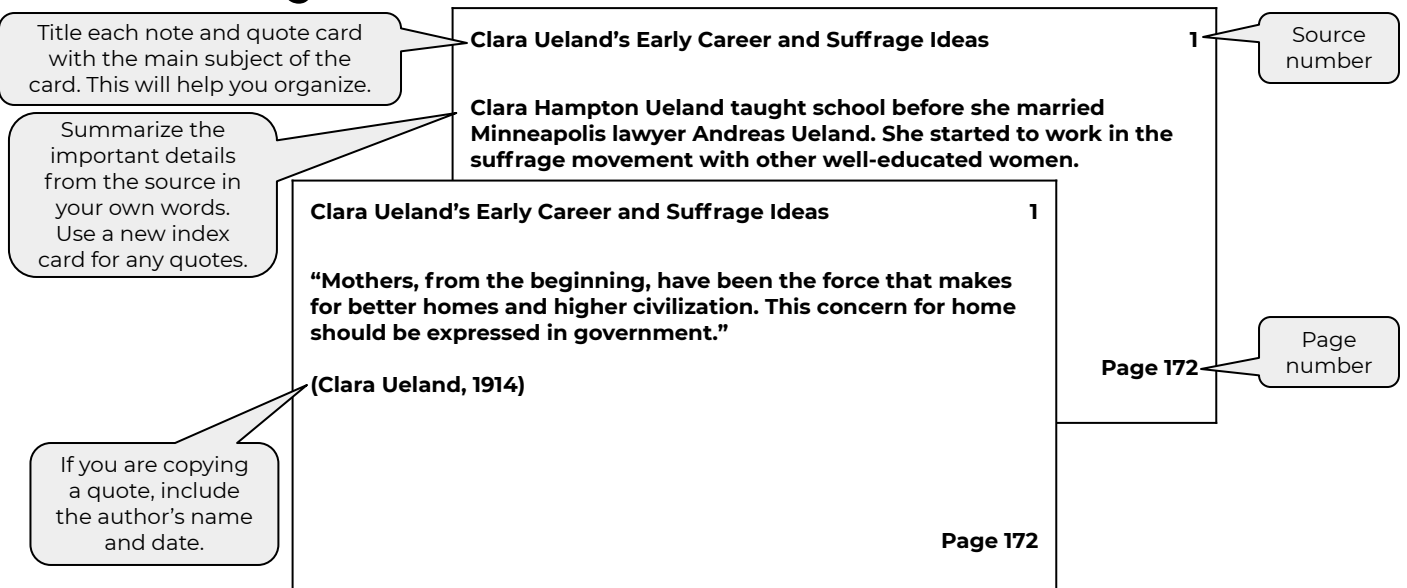
One way you can take notes and organize your research is to use index cards. As you read a source, you will use two types of note cards to take notes: source cards and note/quote cards.

- Step 1: Source Cards.** Write down **bibliographic information** on an index card for each source. Include the type of source, title, author, and year the source was published. You will use this information to create your bibliography. Use a new index card for each source. It's helpful if your sources cards are a different color than your note cards.
- Step 2: Note and Quote Cards.** Use a different set of index cards to record the **notes and quotes** that you find in your source. Record each big idea or quote on a different note card. You will probably use lots of index cards for each source. Don't write on the back of the card!
- Step 3: Organize Your Information.** Sort **your cards** into different stacks after you think you are done researching. Make one stack for each sections of your project (background, build-up, main event, short-term impact, and long-term impact). If you don't have any cards for a section, you'll need to go back and do a little more research.

## Source Cards



## Note and Quote Cards







Name: Jenny Lopez Class Period: 8

Topic: The Montgomery Bus Boycott

**Task:** Take notes for the During, or “Heart of the Story” section of your topic. Look for the 5W’s: **What** happened? **How** did it happen? **When** did it happen? **Why** did it happen? **Who** was involved or affected? **Where** did it happen? **Use the back of the sheet for pictures or quotes.**

<b>Main Ideas:</b>	<b>Notes:</b> Write the source and page number all your notes.
<u>Montgomery citizens</u>	<u>-Jo Ann Robinson and the Women’s Political Council made flyers</u>
<u>Organized a boycott</u>	<u>about Parks’ arrest that were handed out anonymously. (69)</u>
<u></u>	<u>-Civil rights leaders agreed on a one-day boycott. (70)</u>
<u></u>	<u>-The Montgomery Improvement Association (MIA) formed. MLK</u>
<u></u>	<u>elected president. He was young and new to town. (73)</u>
<u></u>	<u>-MIA had meeting to see if they wanted to continue. King gave</u>
<u></u>	<u>speech. People voted “yes” to continue. (76)</u>
<u>Demands of MIA were not to</u>	<u>-MIA had three demands: (77)</u>
<u>end segregation originally</u>	<u>1. Courtesy from bus drivers</u>
<u></u>	<u>2. Hiring of black bus drivers</u>
<u></u>	<u>3. Seating on first-come, first-serve basis</u>
<u>Organizers implemented</u>	<u>-Black-owned cabs gave people low-cost fares during boycott.</u>
<u>mutual aid to organize</u>	<u>people with cars organized a transportation system. (78)</u>
<u></u>	<u>-There was fundraising to help support the cause. (79)</u>
<u>Non-violence and MLK</u>	<u>-MLK preached about non-violence and how it was important to</u>
<u></u>	<u>the success of the movement. (79)</u>
<u></u>	<u>-Had read about Gandhi’s fight against colonial rule. (79)</u>
<u></u>	<u>-Christian Pacifism and the Bible. (79)</u>
<u>Why was non-violence</u>	<u>-The Montgomery Bus Boycott’s success proved that</u>
<u>important?</u>	<u>non-violence could be used to successfully protest other</u>
<u></u>	<u>segregation and inequality laws in the South (79)</u>

**Summary:** Montgomery civil rights leaders organized a bus boycott after Rosa Parks’ 1955 arrest.  
The Montgomery Improvement Association, led by Martin Luther King, Jr., continued the boycott and  
organized transportation for residents. The year-long boycott’s success in ending bus segregation  
proved that non-violence could be a successful strategy for other civil rights protests.

**Sources:** “Eyes on the Prize: America’s Civil Rights Years, 1954-1965” by Juan Williams, 2013.





Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class Period: \_\_\_\_\_

Topic: \_\_\_\_\_

**Task:** Take notes for the Build-Up, or the events right before the main event. Think about it as “the spark” for the main events. What events or ideas led up to the main event? What inspired people to get involved? Be more specific than the background section. **Use the back of the sheet for pictures or quotes.**

**Main Ideas:**

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**Notes:** Write the source and page number all your notes.

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**Summary:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Sources:** \_\_\_\_\_

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# Write Your History Day Thesis

Name: Jenny Lopez Class Period: 8

Topic: The Montgomery Bus Boycott

**Task:** Use your notes to answer the questions below. Summarize your information into a two sentence thesis. The first sentence should be a summary of the 5W's of your topic. The second sentence should explain the impact your topic had in history.

<b>Question:</b>	<b>Answer:</b>
<b><u>Who</u> was involved/ <u>Who</u> was affected?</b>	Rosa Parks, residents of Montgomery, the Montgomery Improvement Association (MIA), Civil Rights Movement leaders, city officials, Martin Luther King, Jr.
<b><u>What</u> happened?</b>	After Parks was arrested, Civil Rights leaders organized the MIA to lead the bus boycott, which economically hurt the city. A lawsuit followed that went to the Supreme Court, which ruled segregation as unconstitutional.
<b><u>Where</u> did it take place?</b>	Montgomery, Alabama
<b><u>When</u> did it happen?</b>	The boycott began December 5, 1955 and lasted 381 days.
<b><u>Why</u> did it happen? What caused it?</b>	Civil Rights leaders wanted to overturn segregation laws on public transportation and boycotted by organizing ride shares and fundraising to support each other King and others used a boycott to gain support through non-violence.
<b><u>Why</u> is it important? <u>How</u> did it change history? Think about your theme connection!</b>	The boycott eventually caused the city to overturn segregation laws. The boycott drew national attention and put King in the spotlight, giving him the ability to organize similar protests using nonviolent resistance.

## Thesis Sentence 1: Summarize the 5W's.

After Rosa Parks' 1955 arrest for refusing to give up her seat to a white passenger, Montgomery residents organized a boycott of city buses.

## Thesis Sentence 2: So what? How did your topic change history?

Using mutual aid and nonviolence as diplomatic strategies, they shifted the debate over segregation and established nonviolent resistance as a successful strategy for Civil Rights activists.

# Write Your History Day Thesis

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class Period: \_\_\_\_\_

Topic: \_\_\_\_\_

**Task:** Use your notes to answer the questions below. Summarize your information into a two sentence thesis. The first sentence should be a summary of the 5W's of your topic. The second sentence should explain the impact your topic had in history.

Question:	Answer:
<u>Who</u> was involved/ <u>Who</u> was affected?	
<u>What</u> happened?	
<u>Where</u> did it take place?	
<u>When</u> did it happen?	
<u>Why</u> did it happen? What caused it?	
<u>Why</u> is it important? <u>How</u> did it change history? Think about your theme connection!	

**Thesis Sentence 1: Summarize the 5W's.**

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**Thesis Sentence 2: So what? How did your topic change history?**

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# Write Your Text: Heart of the Story or During

Name: Jenny Lopez Class Period: 8

Topic: Rosa Parks and the Montgomery Bus Boycott

**Task:** Use your note cards or the summary section of your Cornell Notes pages for the Heart of the Story section. Write a summary of this information below. Brainstorm the illustrations and quotes that support your thesis.

**My Summary:** **What** happened? **How** did it happen? **When** did it happen? **Why** did it happen? **Who** was involved or affected? **Where** did it happen?

Rosa Parks' arrest was the spark for a 381 day bus boycott that began in Montgomery, Alabama on December 5, 1955. Community leaders saw her arrest as an opportunity to challenge segregation on public transportation.

Religious and Civil Rights leaders began a one-day boycott, organized by the newly formed Montgomery Improvement Association. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was elected as the leader. Influenced by Gandhi and Christian Pacifism, King advocated for non-violence, which he felt would build support from people in the white community.

At first, the MIA's demands didn't include an end to segregation. They wanted courtesy from drivers, the hiring of Black drivers, and seating on a first-come, first-serve basis.

As the boycott went on, the MIA raised funds and coordinated transportation for the boycotters. The bus company and businesses in Montgomery began to suffer economically. Five women then sued the city to end segregation.

## Illustrations

What have you found? Try pictures, paintings, documents, newspapers, or maps. Print illustrations and attach to this page.

1. Rosa Parks mug shot, arrest record
2. Boycott headline from New York Times
3. Cab photos from during boycott
4. Map of Montgomery, Alabama
5. Jo Ann Robinson's flyer about boycott

## Quotes

What have you found? Focus on quotes from primary sources. Print quotes and attach to this page.

1. Who said it: Rosa Parks  
When: "My Story," 1992
2. Who said it: Martin Luther King, Jr.  
When: Statement on Ending Boycott, 1956
3. Who said it: Claudette Colvin  
When: Twice Toward Justice, 2009













# Source Cards: Book, Website



**Task:** Take notes on each source you use. When you are done, talk to your teacher about how to turn these into your annotated bibliography. You can write the citations by hand or use a website, like EasyBib or NoodleTools. **You will need several copies of this page to take notes on all of your sources.**

## Book

Author's Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Author's First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Book: \_\_\_\_\_

Publisher: \_\_\_\_\_

City of Publication: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_

I read this book:  Online  In Print

How did you use this source?

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## Website

Author's Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Website Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Publisher/Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

URL: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Published: \_\_\_\_\_ Date You Used It: \_\_\_\_\_

How did you use this source?

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# Source Cards: Database, Illustration



**Task:** Take notes on each source you use. When you are done, talk to your teacher about how to turn these into your annotated bibliography. You can write the citations by hand or use a website, like EasyBib or NoodleTools. **You will need several copies of this page to take notes on all of your sources.**

## Database

Author's Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Author's First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Article Title: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Publisher/Service Provider of Database: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Published: \_\_\_\_\_ Date You Used It: \_\_\_\_\_

How did you use this source?

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## Illustration

Title of Illustration: \_\_\_\_\_

Creator: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Created: \_\_\_\_\_

I found this image:  In a Book  On the Web

Book Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Website Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Publisher: \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsor of Site: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Created: \_\_\_\_\_

Year: \_\_\_\_\_ Date You Used It: \_\_\_\_\_

How did you use this source?

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# Source Cards: Encyclopedia, Newspaper



**Task:** Take notes on each source you use. When you are done, talk to your teacher about how to turn these into your annotated bibliography. You can write the citations by hand or use a website, like EasyBib or NoodleTools. **You will need several copies of this page to take notes on all of your sources.**

## Encyclopedia

Article Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Encyclopedia Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Volume: \_\_\_\_\_ Edition: \_\_\_\_\_

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