WORKSHEET: THESIS STATEMENTS

SAMPLE TOPIC: Rosa Parks and 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? 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: Communication in History

Remember: Try to connect to the ideas of communication and understanding in your thesis statement!

- What was the communication? Parks and other residents sent the message that they would not tolerate segregation but prove that nonviolent protest was an effective method for creating change.
- How did things change? The boycott and Supreme Court victory showed the power of collective action and peaceful protest.

Put it all together into a thesis statement.

The Montgomery Bus Boycott began in 1955, sparked by Rosa Parks' refusal to give up her bus seat to a white passenger. The year-long boycott and the Supreme Court victory brought national attention to segregation, demonstrating the power of nonviolent protest as an effective communication strategy for other civil rights protests.

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?

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- What was the communication?
- How did things change?

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