

National History Day in Iowa

Taking a Stand in History: People, Ideas, Events

Sample Topic List, 2005-2006

The following list was created as a guide to help you think about local topics. Selecting a topic unique to Iowa can be beneficial for many reasons. One, you have a good chance of finding primary sources and valuable experts close to home. Two, the topic may be more unique than a broad national event. Three, you can make the topic personal by looking at it from a local perspective. Some of these topic ideas reflect regional and national trends; do not forget to look for the “big picture” when examining these ideas. Keep in mind that some of the topics below **require narrowing**. Choosing a topic from this list will not increase or decrease a student’s success in the National History Day contest.

George Washington Carver: Taking a Stand for Rural African-Americans
Standing up to the Pentagon: Peg Mullen and the Vietnam War
John Todd: Promoting Abolition Through the Underground Railroad
Peg Anderson: Working for the Equal Rights Amendment in Iowa, 1980
The Mesquakie Settlement: Taking a Stand to Save Their Land
Fighting to Preserve Women’s Traditional Roles: Iowa Women Against the ERA
William Salter. Taking a Stand against Slavery
Virginia Harper: Working for Equal Opportunities for African Americans in Ft. Madison
Carrie A. Nation: Taking a Stand for Prohibition
Jennifer Riggs Cosson: Working for Women’s Suffrage in Iowa
S. Joe and Sue Brown: Fighting for Civil Rights
Defending Farmer’s Rights: National Farmers Organization
Emma Goldman Clinic: Protecting Women’s Reproductive Rights Since 1973
Shirley Sandage: Working to Improve Conditions for Migrant Workers in Mason City
“Fat Liberation”: Taking a Stand Against Beauty Standards Jo Rabenold and Susan Norman
Milo Reno: Taking a Stand for Farmers During the Depression
Kappie Spencer: Fight for Dual Listings in Telephone Directories, 1970s
Cora Bussey Hillis: Supporting Children’s Rights
Lost Creek Coal Mine Disaster, Mahaska County, 1902: A Fight to Protect Miners
Clara Oleson: Working for Equal Pay for Women Custodial Workers in 1972
Viola and Hugh Gibson: Taking a Stand for Civil Rights in Cedar Rapids
Phylliss Henry: Fighting Discrimination Against Women in the Des Moines Police Department
Merrill Anderson: Taking a Stand for Conservation Measures in Farming
Challenge to Liberty: Herbert Hoover’s Stand against the New Deal
Annie Savery: Fighting for Women’s Suffrage
Taking a Stand Against Nuclear Weapons: Cedar Rapids Women’s Peace Inquiry and Action Group, 1962
Writing Letters and Demonstrating for Peace: The Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom
Resisting Slavery: Asa Turner
Iowa Women’s Political Caucus: Working for Equality in Politics
Herbert Hoover: Taking a Stand for Children With The Child's Bill of Rights

Robert Wright: Standing for Civil Rights
Ruth Suckow (1892-1960): Taking a Stand for Women Through Fiction
Cecil Reed: Fighting for Fair Housing
Billy Sunday: Taking a Stand for Prohibition
J. N. "Ding" Darling: Promoting Conservation Through Cartoons
Amelia Bloomer: Taking a Stand for Women's Rights
Henry A. Wallace: Standing for Civil Rights
Annie Wittenmeyer: Taking a Stand for Iowa's Civil War Orphans
Edna Griffin: Working for Equal Treatment for African Americans
Governor William Larabee: Promoting Woman's Suffrage, Railroad Regulations, and Civil Rights
George Woodson: Taking a Stand With the NAACP
Iowa Federation of Colored Women's Clubs: Fighting for Civil Rights
Edward Allen: Taking a Stand With the Iowa Civil Liberties Union
John L. Lewis: Standing for Workers
The 1948 Rath Packinghouse Workers strike in Waterloo: Fighting for Civil Rights
Maria Running Moccasins Pearson: Protecting Ancient Indian Burial Sites.
The Iowa Braille and Sight Saving School: Taking a Stand for Excluded Students
The Great Mississippi Flood of 1927: Herbert Hoover's Idealism and African American Reality
Old Order Amish Communities in Iowa: Taking a Stand for Religious Freedom
Fort Madison NAACP: Fighting to Save Neighborhoods During the Threat of a Highway
Harold Hughes: Taking a Stand for Independent Truckers
The 1902 Factory Act: Protecting Children
Women's Christian Temperance Union: Taking a Stand for Prohibition
Amish Education: Refusing Mainstream Teaching
The Community of True Inspiration-The Amana Colonies: Taking a Stand for Religious Freedom
Exempt from War: The Quakers Refuse to Take Arms
Racial Integration at Fort Des Moines
Chief Black Hawk: A Fight Against Indian Relocation
Taking a Stand Through Violence and Fear: KKK in Iowa
America First: Verne Marshall and the No Foreign War Committee, 1940-1941
Atomic Spies: Lewis Strauss and the Revocation of Robert Oppenheimer's Security Clearance
An American Reformation: Herbert Hoover Takes a Stand on Native American Education
DePriest Tea Incident: Taking a Stand against Racism in the White House, June 1929

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