

# Sample Topics

The following list provides examples of topics related to this year's theme. The list is not inclusive; rather, it provides a starting point for teachers and students to brainstorm about ideas for National History Day entries. Students should keep in mind that many excellent research topics can be found by investigating their own local history. Choosing one of the topics below will not increase or decrease a student's chances of doing well at a National History Day contest.

## People or Events

- Lyndon B. Johnson's Stand for the Civil Rights Act of 1964
- Queen Liliuokalani of Hawaii
- Dalton Trumbo and the Hollywood Ten
- John Carlos and Tommie Smith, 1968  
Mexico City Olympics: Civil Disobedience While on the Medal Stand
- Ernesto "Che" Guevara: The Fight to End Oppression in Latin America
- George C. Marshall and his Plan: Taking a Stand for Relief in Western Europe
- Prince Klemens von Metternich: Taking a Stand against the Enlightenment
- Belva Ann Bennett Lockwood: Taking a Stand by Running for President
- Disaster at Kent State, 1970: Protest Ends in Tragedy
- Bartholomé de Las Casas: Standing Up to the Church for Human Rights in the Americas
- Teddy Roosevelt and Muscular Christianity: Taking a Stand for Being a Man
- Aisha Abdul-Rahman: Islamic Scholar and Feminist Philosopher
- Taking a Stand for Women, Faith and Equality: Olympia Brown, Activist and First Female Minister
- Omar Al-Mokhtar: Resisting the Italian Colonization of Libya
- Standing and Singing for Equality: Marian Anderson's Concert in Washington, DC
- John Stuart Mill and Harriet Taylor: Advocating Together for the Rights of Men and Women
- Ida B. Wells-Barnett, Free Press, and the Fight to End Lynchings
- Martin Luther: The Stand that Started the Reformation
- Protecting the Environment: John Muir and the Ecology Movement
- Malcolm X: Radicalism and Civil Rights
- Mahatma Gandhi: Freedom Through Non-violence
- Defiance in Leaps and Bounds: Jesse Owens and the 1936 Berlin Olympics
- Elvia Alvarado: Standing Up for the Poor of Honduras
- A Last Stand: The Fall of Lt. Col. Custer and the Battle of Little Big Horn
- Failing to Take a Stand Against Evil: Pope Pius XII and Hitler
- Terrence Powderly and the Haymarket Square Riots: How Refusing to Take a Stand Led to the Downfall of the Knights of Labor

## Ideas

A Stand for States' Rights? The Civil War and the Question of Secession

Vatican II: Taking a Stand for Religious Reform

The End of European Witch Hunts: Communities Take a Stand to Stop Hysteria

The Philadelphia Eleven: Taking a Stand for Women in the Episcopal Church

A Stand for All: The United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Standing on Our Own: Black Control of the Abolition Movement

Taking a Stand Against Foot-Binding: A Political and Cultural War in China

Taking a Stand against Taking a Drink: The Temperance Movement in Victorian America

The Egyptian Feminist Union: Taking a Stand for Women in Egypt

United We Stand—Or Do We? Cooperation Among New Left Organizations in America

Taking a Stand and Leading the Way: New Zealand Grants Women Suffrage, 1893

The War Hawks: Congressmen Take a Stand for the War of 1812

## Strategies or Methods

Guy Fawkes and the Gunpowder Plot of 1605

Striking at the Lowell Mill: Standing Up for Themselves

From Slave Uprising to Sovereign Nation: Haiti's War for Independence

Many Ways to Take a Stand: Comparing the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference

Civil Disobedience and Non-Violence in American Politics, from the Quakers to the Hippies

Shay's Rebellion: Storming the Courthouse  
Chinese, American, and European Resistance to the Japanese Occupation of Nanking in World War II

Remembering the Alamo: Few Stand Against Many

Taking a Stand in the Senate: History of the Filibuster

*Loving v. Virginia*, 1967: Interracial Couples Take a Stand for Equal Marriage Rights

The Anglo-Zulu War: Opposition to European Control in Africa

Taking a Stand on the Stand: History of the Fifth Amendment

Standing and Signing: History of Change Through Petitions

Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*: Writing Fiction to Take a Stand

Singing To Express a Stand: Bob Dylan and 1960s Protest Music

We Will Not Stand for This: History of Sit-Ins within the Labor and Civil Rights Movements

*Griswold v. Connecticut*, 1965: Standing Up For the Right to an Attorney

Operation Valkyrie: German Military Officers Taking a Stand against Hitler

*Brown v. Board of Education*, 1954: Standing  
Up For the Right to Equality in  
Education

Jews, Romans, and the Great Revolt of 66 CE:  
A Stand Gone Wrong

The Failed 1784 Peasant Uprising:  
Romanians Take a Stand for National  
Identity and Economic Prosperity

Never Was So Much Owed by So Many to So  
Few: The Royal Air Force and The Battle  
of Britain

