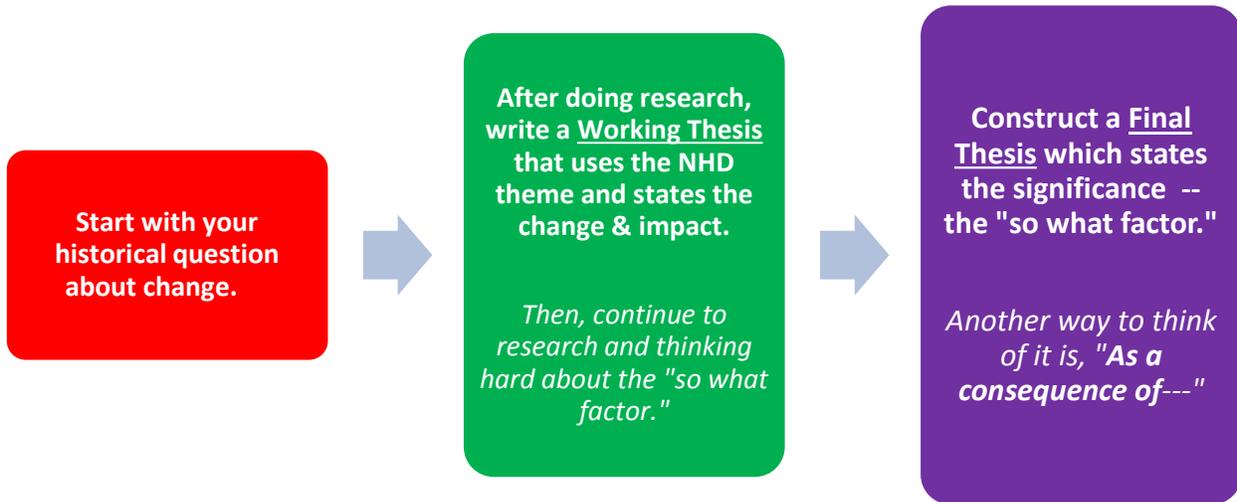


Write a Top-Notch Thesis Statement that Uses the Theme



I. SAMPLE

History Day Theme = *Turning Points*
Narrow Subject: Battle of Gettysburg

Historical Question: How was the battle of Gettysburg a major turning point of the Civil War?

Working Thesis Statement: The Battle of Gettysburg was a major turning point of the Civil War. It turned the tide of the war from the South to the North

Final Thesis Statement: The Battle of Gettysburg was a major turning point of the Civil War. It turned the tide of the war from the South to the North pushing back Lee's army that would never fight again on Northern soil and bringing confidence to the Union army.

IMPACT

SIGNIFICANCE

II. SAMPLE PRACTICE – Circle the impact/change and the significance

History Day Theme: *Science and Technology*
Narrow topic: Introduction of air conditioning and its impact on American life

Historical Question:
What was one of the most significant changes brought by air-conditioning?

Working Thesis:
The advent of air conditioning spurred the migration of Northerners to the Southern states.

Final Thesis Statement:
The advent of air conditioning spurred the migration of Northerners to the Southern states. This shift significantly changed the economy and culture of the South.

Samples from *A Guide to Historical Research Through the National History Day Program*, Edited by Joi Vandenberg-Daves, 2006.



III. WRITE YOUR OWN THESIS in FIVE STEPS (and lots of research!)

1. Theme:

2. Narrow topic: _____

3. Historical Question: _____

4. WORKING THESIS. Based on the research so far, consider your answer to the historical question. Keep in mind the change and its impact.

5. FINAL THESIS! After more research and analysis, revise the working thesis (if necessary) and now add why it matters. "As a consequence...." (or) "Because of..." Write it in two-three sentences:

NEXT: outline how you will convince us of your argument!
(Use HF worksheets "Argument Plan" or "Organizing Your Argument")

