

THESIS & THEME CONNECTION

A thesis expresses the *historical argument* of your History Day project in 2-3 sentences. In much the same way that an attorney presents evidence to support a case in court, your historical argument must be based on evidence. The evidence comes from the primary and secondary sources you discovered during your research. A strong History Day thesis:

- Clearly identifies what your topic is
- Sets your topic in time and/or place
- Briefly summarizes your historical argument
- Makes at least one meaningful theme connection

Use these prompts to begin building your thesis statement.

YOUR TOPIC: Boil down your topic into one sentence or phrase.

WHEN & WHERE: *At a time when... After Reconstruction... Before WWII... During the 1960s...*

THEME CONNECTIONS: How do you see **the theme** in your topic?

HISTORICAL ARGUMENT: This is **your** assessment of the evidence, not a repetition of facts.

Revise and strengthen your thesis as you find new information. A strong thesis evolves as you rethink what you've learned about your topic.

MAKING A HISTORICAL ARGUMENT

An argument is different from an opinion, and more than a simple restatement of facts. It is a reasoned conclusion that is supported by the **evidence** (information from primary sources) you discovered during your research. Remember, as a historian you must consider all sides of the situation. If you found evidence that contradicts your argument, discuss it! If there is controversy or debate, explore it!

YOUR ARGUMENT			
CLAIM Write three claims that support your argument.	Claim 1	Claim 2	Claim 3
EVIDENCE Support each claim with 3 or more facts from your research.	Evidence for Claim 1	Evidence for Claim 2	Evidence for Claim 3
ANALYZE YOUR EVIDENCE What does the evidence show? What perspective does each source reflect?			

Courtesy NHD Hawai'i