

WORKSHEET: THESIS DEVELOPMENT

Sample: 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 racial 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: Triumph and Tragedy in History

- **Triumph:** After more than a year of protest, the boycott succeeded in raising awareness of injustice and legally challenging racial segregation on public transportation
- **Tragedy:** Racial segregation in the United States was a disastrous event and an unjust chapter in history that led to discriminatory treatment of Americans.

Put it all together into a thesis statement.

Protesting the tragedy of racial segregation, Rosa Parks was arrested on December 1, 1955 in Montgomery, Alabama for refusing to give up her bus seat to a white passenger. Through the year-long bus boycott that followed, boycott leaders triumphed in desegregating public transportation, opening doors for other civil rights movement victories.

Name: _____

WORKSHEET: THESIS DEVELOPMENT

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?

THEME CONNECTION: Triumph and Tragedy in History

- **Triumph:** _____

- **Tragedy:** _____

Put it all together into a thesis statement.

What evidence have you found that supports your thesis?
