

Narrowing a National History Day Topic

It is important for students to narrow their National History Day topic down to a manageable size. A topic that is too broad can quickly create nightmares for students during the research phase as well as the project construction phase!

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| Theme | Triumph and Tragedy in History |
| General Interest | Civil Rights era |
| Broad Topic | Legal challenges |
| Narrow Topic | Z. Alexander Looby |
| Research Questions? | What factors led to the tragic bombing of civil rights attorney Z. Alexander Looby's home and how did it influence the Nashville student sit-in movement? |
| Thesis | A veteran civil rights litigator, Z. Alexander Looby worked closely with black college student activists to desegregate Nashville's downtown lunch counters in 1960. For his work defending protesters in court, white segregationists bombed his home on April 19. In response to the tragedy, some 2000 Fisk University students marched to City Hall to confront Mayor Ben West and pressure him to verbally denounce racial discrimination. Out of the tragedy came a triumph for racial equality. |

Theme

Triumph and Tragedy in History

General Interest

Broad Topic

Narrow Topic

Research Question?

Thesis
