



Research Brainstorm

Name _____

Date _____

Teacher Mrs. Ivers

Period _____

Research Question Choose a person or organization that has had a positive affect on tolerance in America.

Research Topic Martin Luther King

A Thesis Statement:

1. Needs to directly answer a question about your topic.
2. Is a specific statement.
3. Expresses one main idea.
4. Makes a claim that others might disagree with.
5. A strong thesis statement takes a stand.
6. Presents your argument to the reader.
7. Covers only what you will present in your paper.
8. Is supported by the evidence you discover through your research.
9. Presents your conclusion about your topic.
10. Usually appears as one sentence at the end of the first paragraph of your paper.
11. Evolves as your topic evolves – to reflect exactly what you discuss in your paper.

Writing a Thesis Statement:

1. Start by collecting background information on your topic.
2. Organize your information and look for possible relationships between the known facts you find – similarities or contrasts.
3. Evaluating these relationships will help you come up with a main idea or argument that you can support in your paper.
4. Turn your assigned topic statement into a question.
5. Write one or two complete sentences that answer your question.
6. The answer to your question is your thesis statement.

Examples:

Topic Statement - Select a person or group that has positively influenced tolerance in America.

Question: How did Martin Luther King, Jr. positively influence tolerance in America?

Answer: Martin Luther King, Jr. influenced tolerance in America by showing that racial equality could be achieved peacefully.

Answer: Martin Luther King, Jr. believed his dream of racial equality and brotherhood among all Americans could be achieved if all people marched peacefully ahead and never looked back.

Answer: Martin Luther King, Jr. believed that all Americans could “Be Free at Last” if they fought a peaceful fight for equality

The **BIG Question** or essential question for my research is **[write a question]**:

1. Write at least three questions about the **BIG Question**, asking: who, what, when, where, why, how.

2. In your **Big Question** above, **highlight** or **circle** the key concepts - separate or distinct topics that form all or part of a research question. List your key concepts below:

Key Concept #1	Key Concept #2	Key Concept #3

3. Look at your Key Concepts in #2 and identify the keywords - single words or short phrases that describe your research topic. Write all the keywords in the left column. In the right column, list one or more synonyms or related terms for your keywords:

Keywords	Synonyms or Related Terms

4. Find **background information** on your topic by looking it up in a general encyclopedia [look your topic up in the index volume – the last volume].

Check the one(s) you will start with:

- Americana Encyclopedia – Print
- [Encyclopedia Britannica Online](#) – Electronic
- Encyclopedia Britannica – Print
- [Oxford Reference Online](#) - Electronic
- [World Book Online Reference Center](#) – Electronic
- World Book Encyclopedia - Print

5. Do a **keyword search** in the [SHS Library Catalog](#) to find **reference books** on your topic. List them:

Title	Call Number
	REF
	REF
	REF
	REF
	REF
	REF

6. Do a **keyword search** in the [SHS Library Catalog](#) to find **non-fiction books, videos, or magazines** on your topic. List them:

Title	Call Number

7. Find **magazine articles** in the [SHS online databases](#). Check which databases you will use:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Academic Search Premier | <input type="checkbox"/> CO Researcher |
| <input type="checkbox"/> American National Biography | <input type="checkbox"/> Culture Grams |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art Online - Grove | <input type="checkbox"/> Deseret News Archives |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Awesome Stories | <input type="checkbox"/> History Happenings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biography Reference Center | <input type="checkbox"/> History Reference Center |

- [Issues and Controversies in American History](#)
- [Literary Reference Center](#)
- [Magill's Medical Guide](#)
- [MAS Ultra – School Edition](#)
- [MasterFILE Premier](#)
- [News Paper Source](#)
- [Non-Fiction Book Collection](#)

- [Opposing Viewpoints](#)
- [Regional Business News](#)
- [SIRS Discoverer](#)
- [SIRS Knowledge Source](#)
- [Student Research Center](#)
- [Topic Search](#) [Hot Topics]
- [Utah Digital Newspapers](#)

8. Find **magazine [periodical] articles** in the databases you checked in #7. List your articles:

Article Title	Magazine [Periodical] Title	Vol, Issue, Date

9. Use approved **academic websites**. Click on your topic, then check the sites you will use for your research:

- [Art & Art History](#)
- Biography
- Business
- Film
- Folk Life
- Government, Politics & Law
- Health

- History
- Literature
- Medicine
- Music
- Social Issues
- Sports

10. List the URLs of any additional **web sites** you want to use – for teachers approval:

Web Page URL

11. Draft a preliminary outline of your research.

