



SAMPLE TOPICS

listed by state

A selection of topic ideas to spur your discovery of a National History Day project for you! Please feel free to adapt the topic titles as you need.

Alabama

- Claudette Colvin, Rosa Parks, and the Montgomery Bus Boycott
- Benjamin S. Turner: the first African American Representative from Alabama
- The Tuskegee Airmen and the Second World War
- The Scottsboro Boys Trial

Alaska

- Michael Healy and the Great Reindeer Experiment
- The Sikanni Chief Bridge Project and Military Segregation during the Second World War
- Fighting for Equality in The Last Frontier: Blanche McSmith
- Taking a Stand for African American History and Culture: George T. Harper (1930-2004)

Arizona

- Henry Ossian Flipper and the land claim case of Nogales, Arizona
- Taking a Stand in Sports and Politics: The National Football League, the State of Arizona, and Martin Luther King Day
- The Ninth and Tenth Cavalry, the U.S. Army and Native Americans during the Apache Wars
- Buffalo Soldiers taking the Stand in a clash of Race, Religion, and Politics in Territorial Arizona: The Wham Paymaster Robbery Trail of 1889

Arkansas

- The Mosaic Templars of America
- The United States Colored Troops during the Engagement at Jenkins Ferry and the during the Civil War
- Elizabeth Eckford of The Little Rock Nine: Taking a Stand Alone
- A Free Black taking a Stand in the War of 1812: Peter Caulder

California

- The Conventions of Colored Citizens of the State of California
- The Founding of the Black Panther Party
- The Black Nationalist Movement and the Celebration of Kwanzaa
- Abolitionist in the Gold Rush State: Mary Ellen Pleasant

Colorado

- Barney Lancelot Ford against Statehood for Colorado
- Self-Segregation in the town of Deerfield, Colorado
- Taking a Stand for Education: Rachel B. Noel
- Dr. Joseph H.P. Westbrook against the Ku Klux Klan

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| Connecticut | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrating Race and Education: The Prudence Crandall Affair • The 1960s Race Riots of Hartford and New Haven • <i>The United States vs. The Amistad</i> (1841) • Taking a Stand for Abolition: David Ruggles |
| Delaware | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edwina B. Kruze: A Nineteenth Century School Mistress • Peter Spencer and the Founding of African Union Methodism • Taking a Stand for Women’s and Civil Rights: Alice Dunbar-Nelson • The Delaware Quakers: Taking a Stand against Slavery |
| District of Columbia | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President Abraham Lincoln, Enslaved Labor and the Completion of the U.S. Capitol • Taking a Stand against Segregation: Race and Religion in historic D.C. churches • Marian Anderson, First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and the Daughters of the American Revolution • Taking a Stand for Labor during Wartime: A. Philip Randolph and Executive Order 8802 (1941) • Benjamin O Davis Jr. at the United States Military Academy at West Point (1932-1936) • The Freedman’s Savings and Trust Company (1865 – 1874) • The National Council of Negro Women |
| Florida | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • African Americans in the Seminole Wars • The Enslaved Soldiers of Fort Mose • The United States Colored Troops at the Battle of Olustee (1864) • Taking A Stand in Politics: Josiah T. Walls |
| Georgia | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Free Black Community of Savannah: Taking a Stand against the Status Quo during the Slavery Era • Austin Dabney: Taking a Stand for a New Nation • The Freedman’s Bureau in Reconstruction Georgia • Taking a Stand against Grave Robbing and Body Snatching: The African American Community of Augusta against the practice of stealing deceased bodies for medical schools and education at the Medical College of Georgia |
| Hawaii | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Betsey Stockton: Taking a Stand for Education • Doris Miller and the Attack on Pearl Harbor • Frank Marshall Davis and the Issue of Labor • Alice Ball: Taking a Stand against Leprosy in Hawaii |

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| Idaho | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking a Stand for Community: African American Uplift Clubs in Turn-of-the-Century Pocatello • Reverend T. J. Ross at the Louvre Café: Sitting to Stand against Segregation • Glen. K Taylor: Fighting for Civil Rights • The Pocatello League for Negro and Other Minority Rights |
| Illinois | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking a Stand for Equality and Real Estate: <i>Hansberry v. Lee</i> (1940) • Gwendolyn Brooks, Poetry, and the fight for equality in Chicago • Richard Pryor: Taking a Stand against Racism with Comedy • Nichelle Nichols, Lt. Uhara, and Star Trek: The Original Series |
| Indiana | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Grand Body of the Sisters of Charity (1876-1980) • The Election Riot of 1876 • <i>The Indianapolis Recorder</i>, and African American newspaper in Jim Crow Indiana • Taking a Stand for Justice in Blue: Emma Christy Baker |
| Iowa | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 1st Regiment Iowa Volunteer Infantry (African Descent) a.k.a the 60th Infantry Regiment U.S. Colored Troops during the Civil War • Taking a Stand in the Military: The NAACP and the training of Black Officers at Fort Des Moines during the First World War • A Convention of Colored Men in Muscatine (1857) • Lulu Johnson and Virginia Harper: Taking a Stand for History and Education |
| Kansas | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pap Singleton and the Exoduster Movement • Taking a Stand for Herself and Her Career in Hollywood: Hattie McDonald • The 23rd Kansas Volunteer Infantry Regiment during the Spanish-American War • Taking a Stand for Freedom: The 1st Kansas Colored Infantry |
| Kentucky | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mary Virginia Cook Parrish: Taking a Stand for Women and Religion • Taking a Stand with Literature: Henry Bibb and <i>The Voice of The Fugitive</i> • African American Jockeys, the Kentucky Derby and the Rise of Jim Crow • <i>Buchanan v. Warley</i> (1917): Fighting against Segregation and Discrimination in Real Estate |
| Louisiana | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • African Americans at the Battle of New Orleans during the War of 1812 • The Public Accommodation Bill (1868): Taking a Stand against Discrimination and Segregation during Reconstruction • Louis Armstrong and The Real Ambassadors • New Orleans's The Free People of Color: Taking a Stand against the Status Quo during the Antebellum Era |

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| Maine | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Macon Bolling Allen and the Bar Exam • Richard Earle of Machias and African American Patriots in the Northern Colonies during the Revolutionary War • Christopher Christian Manuel the <i>Eastern Argus</i> (9/15/1826): Taking a Stand against Racial Discrimination in Religion • The Underground Railroad Network in Maine |
| Maryland | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thurgood Marshall, the NAACP and the University of Maryland (1933) • African American Privateers, Baltimore, and the War of 1812 • Frances Ellen Watkins Harper: Taking a Stand for Women’s Suffrage • Benjamin Banneker against Thomas Jefferson |
| Massachusetts | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking a Stand against the Status Quo in Medicine: Dr. Rebecca Lee Crumpler • David Walker’s <i>Appeal to the Colored Citizens of the World</i> (1829) • Taking a Stand for against School Segregation: <i>Roberts v. City of Boston</i> (1850) • The American Colonization Society |
| Michigan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 102nd Regiment United States Colored Troops during the Civil War • City Leadership and The Detroit Race Riot of 1943 • Taking A Nobel Stand for Peace: Ralph Bunche, Arab-Israeli conflict and the 1949 Armistice Agreements • Motown and the Civil Rights Movement: Taking a Stand with Music and Art |
| Minnesota | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lena O. Smith: Taking a Stand for the Law • The 1905 Niagara Movement • Taking a Stand against Lynching: Nellie and William T. Francis • Gordon Parks: Taking a Stand with Art and Film |
| Mississippi | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking a Stand in Politics: Hiram R. Revels • The Biloxi Beach Wade-Ins (1959 – 1963) • Fannie Lou Hamer: Taking A Stand for Civil Rights and Voting Rights • Taking a Stand against the Status Quo: William Johnson: A Free Black Businessman in Antebellum Natchez |
| Missouri | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black “Immune” Regiment Volunteers for Spanish-American War • Chuck Berry: Taking a Stand for Harmony, Race Relations and Rock-N-Roll • Gwen B. Giles: Taking a Stand for Local Politics • The Pacific Movement of the Eastern World |

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| Montana | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking a Stand with Journalism: J.B. Bass and <i>The Montana Plaindealer</i> • Octavia Bridgewater and the Integration of Military Nursing • Taking a Stand for Discrimination in the Early 20th Century: Afro-American Protective League • The Establishment of a Black Studies Program at the University of Montana |
| Nebraska | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking a Stand for the Great Migration: The Omaha Monitor in the 1910s and 1920s • The Exoduster Movement to Nebraska • Taking a Stand for Race and Religion in Film: <i>A Time for Burning</i> (1966) • Malcolm Little, Earl Little, and the Universal Negro Improvement Association |
| Nevada | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking a Stand for leisure: Integrating the Moulin Rouge Casino • Taking a Stand for Politics: Dr. W.H.C. Stephenson in Early Nevada • Taking a Stand for Civil Rights in the Reno: Bertha Woodard • The Rat Pack and the Civil Rights Movement |
| New Hampshire | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prince Whipple, the Revolutionary War and Abolition • Oney Marie Judge: Taking a Stand against George Washington • Harriet E. Wilson and <i>Our Nig: Sketches from the Life of a Free Black (1859)</i> • Taking a Stand for Black History: The Preservation of the Pearl of Portsmouth |
| New Jersey | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John S. Rock: Taking a Stand for Medicine and Abolition before the Civil War • Jessie Redmon Fauset and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People • Taking a Stand for Community: The New Jersey State Federation of Colored Women’s Clubs & Youth Clubs • Peter Mott and the Underground Railroad |
| New Mexico | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking a Stand in the Military: Cathay Williams, a woman in the Buffalo Soldiers (1866 -1868) • Taking a Stand for the Edoduster Movement: Blackdom, NM • Jack Johnson vs. “Fireman” Jim Flynn (1912): Race and Boxing during the era of Jim Crow • The George Long Incident, the University of New Mexico, and The Albuquerque, New Mexico Civil Rights Ordinance (1952) |
| New York | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The New York Slave Revolt of 1712 • The Question of Slavery and the Founders: Alexander Hamilton and the New York Manumission Society • The New Negro Movement and The Harlem Renaissance • Taking a Stand in Politics: Shirley Chisholm |

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| North Carolina | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking a Stand through the Written Word: David Walker and the forceful abolition of Slavery • Harriet Jacobs <i>and Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl</i> (1861) • Taking a Stand for Excellence during Jim Crow: Richard Etheridge and the All-Black Crew of the Pea Island Life Saving Station • The Greensboro Sit-Ins |
| North Dakota | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • United States Colored Troops Stationed at Fort Buford • Fritz Pollard Jr. and the 1936 Olympics • Taking a Stand in Journalism: Era Bell Thompson • Dr. William H. Waddell and Veterinary Medicine |
| Ohio | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking a Stand for the New Nation and the War of 1812 : African American Sailors in the Naval Battle of Lake Erie • The Establishment of Wilberforce University (1856) • The Margaret Garner Incident and the Fugitive Slave Act • Taking a Stand in Film and Music: Dorothy Dandridge |
| Oklahoma | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 1842 Slave Revolt in the Cherokee Nation • Taking an Economic Stand Against Jim Crow: The Greenwood Neighborhood and the Tulsa Race Riots • Taking a Stand for History: John Hope Franklin and American and African American History • Taking a Stand for Law: <i>Sipuel v. Oklahoma</i> (1948) |
| Oregon | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Theophilus Magruder v. Jacob Vanderpool</i> (1851) and the Black Exclusion Laws of Oregon • Taking a Stand with Journalism and Tea: Beatrice Morrow Cannady • The Portland Chapter of the NAACP and the first Oregon civil rights bill (1919) • The NAACP, the Kaiser Shipyards and the Second World War |
| Pennsylvania | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Richard Allen and the establishment of the African Methodist Episcopal Church • Personal Liberty Laws and the Christiana Incident of 1851 • Taking a Stand for Music and Culture: Union Local, 274, American Federation of Musicians • The Million Woman March (1997) |
| Rhode Island | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking a Stand for Freedom: The 1st Rhode Island Regiment at the Battle of Yorktown • The Hard Scrabble (1824) and Snow Town Race Riots (1831) • Fighting against Enslavement: The Slave Ship <i>Sally</i>, 1764-1765 • The Civil Rights Movement in Rhode Island |

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| South Carolina | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking a Stand against the Status Quo: The Free Black Community of Antebellum Charleston • Robert Smalls: Civil War Soldier to Politician • Taking a Stand for Emancipation: Freemen in the Sea Islands during the Civil War • Taking a Stand for Freedom: Harriet Tubman: Spy and Raid at the Combahee Ferry |
| South Dakota | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oscar Micheaux, Race and the Early African American Film Industry • Taking a Stand against Jim Crow: The Sully County Colored Colony • The Twenty-fifth United States Infantry Regiment stationed in South Dakota • Louisa Mitchell, the NAACP in Jim Crow Sioux Falls |
| Tennessee | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking a Stand for Journalism: Robert Churchwell, Sr. • The Establishing of Fisk Free Colored School (Fisk University) • Taking a Stand for Health: Dorothy Lavinia Brown • Mary Church Terrell |
| Texas | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking a Stand against Voting Discrimination: <i>Nixon v. Herndon (1927)</i> • The Colored Farmers' National Alliance and Cooperative Union • The Houston (Camp Logan) Riot of 1917 • Taking a Stand for Freedom and Economic Opportunity after Slavery and the Civil War: The Black Cowboys of Texas |
| Utah | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking a Stand for Equality: Robert E. Freed and the desegregation of Farmington's Lagoon • Taking a Stand for Religion: David H. Oliver's <i>A Negro on Mormonism</i> • Taking a Stand for Religion and Abolition: Q. Walker Lewis • The Civil Rights Movement in Utah |
| Vermont | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking a Stand for Freedom: The First State to Abolish Slavery (1777) • Taking a Stand against the Status Quo: Alexander Twilight, the first African American to earn a degree and be elected in State Government (1836) • Taking a Stand for Emigration Movement: Martin Henry Freedman |
| Virginia | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Paradox of Liberty: The Virginian Founding Fathers and Slavery • Taking a Stand against the Status Quo: The Free Black Community of Antebellum Richmond and Petersburg, Virginia • Convention of the Colored People of Virginia (1865) • The Rosenwald Schools of Virginia |

Washington

- Taking a Stand Against Discrimination: William Owen Bush and Washington's First Civil Rights Act (1890)
- African American Longshoremen and the 1934 Waterfront Strike
- The Founding of the Washington State Federation of Colored Women
- The Civil Rights Movement in Seattle

West Virginia

- West Virginia Statehood, the Civil War, Free Labor and Slavery
- *Williams v. Board of Education of Tucker County (1892)*
- Taking a Stand against Media: Protesting against the D.W. Griffith's *Birth of a Nation* (1925) in Charleston
- Taking a Stand in Politics: Elizabeth Simpson Drewry

Wisconsin

- Caroline Quarlls and the Underground Railroad
- Joshua Glover, Sherman Booth, and the Fugitive Slave Act in Wisconsin
- Taking a Stand for Freedom: The 29th Infantry Regiment of U.S. Colored Troops
- The Civil Rights Movement in Milwaukee

Wyoming

- Taking a Stand in Politics: William Jefferson Hardin
- The Town of Empire, Wyoming: Taking a Stand for the American Dream
- The Black 14 and the University of Wyoming Football
- Taking a Stand in Politics: Harriett Elizabeth "Liz" Byrd

International

- Taking a Stand against Slavery: Maroon Communities in the Jamaica
- The Agana Race Riot (1944)
- The Moret Law, Abolition and Slavery in Nineteenth Century Puerto Rico
- Taking a Stand for Art: Sylvia del Villard
- African American soldiers and the Ledo Road (1942-1945)
- Taking a Stand for Abolition: Vicente Guerrero
- The Haitian Revolution
- African American Ambassadors and Consuls