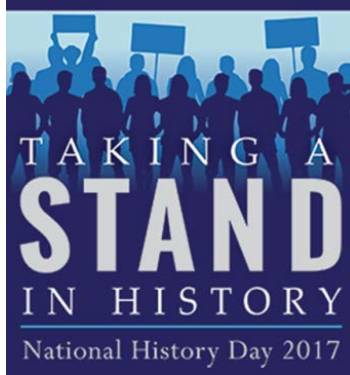


Theme Guide 2016: Taking a Stand in History



This year's theme is "Taking a Stand in History." What does it mean to take a stand? Read on and find out!

Taking a Stand:

Taking a stand really means to take a side for or against something. There are many ways people have taken a stand in history. When people take a stand, they have to defend ideas or actions they believe in. They might use force, like the American patriots did against the British. Or they might use peaceful actions, like Martin Luther King did when marching for civil rights. When someone takes a stand, they are trying to make a change in the way things are.

These changes can have short term, long term, or both kinds of changes. Taking a stand is more than just being against something. It's a way of making your voice heard to make change happen.

Groups of people often stand together for or against things they want to change. Working men and women joined unions to take a stand for better wages and time off. Countries around the world formed the League of Nations after World War I to take a stand against future wars.

Is it always successful? Not always. The League of Nations fell apart as World War II began. Unions have far fewer members today than they used to. Sometimes change takes a very long time. It took over 100 years for women to succeed in their stand to gain the right to vote. Throughout history men, women, and even children have taken a stand for what they believe in, either through force, through their actions, or through speaking out.

In History: Topics must be at least 20 years old to be considered historical. If you like a more recent topic, see if you can find a way connect it to an older event. This will help you do better research. It will also help you to explain the impact of your chosen subject on the world today.