

List of Potential Topics

Keep in mind that you don't have to choose a topic on this list– these are just ideas. If you choose your own topic, make sure it is part of a movement (it doesn't need to be one on this document). If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at miramultani@gmail.com.

1. The Civil Rights Movement

- **The Greensboro Sit-ins:** Four students challenge segregation at a lunch counter.
- **The Little Rock Nine:** High school integration under federal protection.
- **Murder of Emmett Till:** The decision by his mother, Mamie Till-Mobley, to have an open-casket funeral to "show the world what they did to my baby."
- **The 1960 Presidential Election Call:** JFK's high-stakes phone call to Coretta Scott King while MLK was in jail, which swung the Black vote and the election.
- **The Freedom Rides:** Activists testing Supreme Court rulings on interstate travel.

2. Women's Suffrage & Equality

- **The Trial of Susan B. Anthony (1873):** When she was arrested for voting illegally and used the courtroom as a stage to argue that women are "citizens" under the 14th Amendment.
- **The Night of Terror (1917):** The brutal imprisonment of picketing suffragists.
- **The 1913 Woman Suffrage Procession:** The massive D.C. parade that upstaged a President.
- **The "Battle of the Sexes" (1973):** Billie Jean King's tennis match for equal pay/respect.
- **The Silent Sentinels:** The two-year daily vigil outside the White House.

3. The Labor Movement

- **The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire:** A tragedy that birthed modern safety laws.
- **The Pullman Strike:** The railroad shutdown that created Labor Day.
- **The Battle of Blair Mountain:** The largest armed labor uprising in U.S. history.
- **The Delano Grape Strike:** A 5-year strike uniting Filipino and Mexican workers.
- **The Bread and Roses Strike:** Immigrant women leading a 1912 textile strike.

4. LGBTQ+ Rights Movement

- **The Stonewall Uprising:** The 1969 riots that sparked modern Pride.
- **The Compton's Cafeteria Riot:** Transgender-led resistance in San Francisco (1966).
- **The 1987 Second National March on Washington:** A massive response to the AIDS crisis.

- **The "Lavender Scare":** The mid-century purging of gay employees from the government.
- **The White Night Riots:** Protests following the lenient sentencing of Dan White.

5. Environmental Movement

- **The Publication of *Silent Spring*:** Rachel Carson's book that banned DDT.
- **The First Earth Day (1970):** 20 million Americans protesting for the planet.
- **The Love Canal Disaster:** A local neighborhood's fight against toxic waste.
- **The Cuyahoga River Fire:** When a river in Ohio caught fire, sparking the Clean Water Act.
- **The Occupation of Alcatraz:** Native activists highlighting environmental and land rights.

6. Disability Rights Movement

- **The Section 504 Sit-in (1977):** The longest non-violent occupation of a federal building.
- **The Capitol Crawl:** Activists crawling up the Capitol steps for the ADA.
- **The "Deaf President Now" Protest:** The 1988 student strike at Gallaudet University.
- **The Willowbrook State School Exposé:** The report that ended institutionalized abuse.
- **The League of the Physically Handicapped WPA Picket:** 1930s Great Depression-era activism.

7. Anti-Apartheid Movement (South Africa)

- **The Sharpeville Massacre:** A 1960 protest against "pass laws" that moved the world.
- **The Soweto Uprising:** Students protesting the forced use of the Afrikaans language.
- **The Rivonia Trial:** The legal battle that sent Nelson Mandela to prison.
- **The 1956 Women's March:** 20,000 women marching against Apartheid restrictions.
- **The Release of Nelson Mandela:** The global event signaling the end of the regime.

8. Indian Independence Movement

- **The Salt March (Dandi March):** Gandhi's 240-mile walk against the British salt tax.
- **The Jallianwala Bagh Massacre:** A turning point where British troops fired on a peaceful crowd.
- **The Quit India Movement:** The massive 1942 push for immediate British withdrawal.
- **The Partition of Bengal (1905):** Early organized resistance against colonial division.
- **The Chauri Chaura Incident:** The event that caused Gandhi to pause the movement.