



Name: _____

“Exploration, Encounter, Exchange in History” Making Meaningful Theme Connections

A strong History Day theme connection is about more than just using the theme words in your project. Look for the meaningful ways your topic is connected to the theme. Remember:

- **Your topic does not have to connect to all three “E” words in the theme.** It’s okay to only focus on one or two theme words if those are the best connections to your topic.
- **If your topic does connect to all three theme words** in a meaningful way, you should discuss all three in your project. Exploration, encounter, and exchange are closely related ideas and are often connected.
- Your thesis should show your theme connection and you should **include *at least one theme word in your thesis.***
- Go beyond just using the theme words and think about what each word means. **How is the idea connected to your topic?**

Example: Rosa Parks and the Montgomery Bus Boycott

	Exploration	Encounter	Exchange
Weak	Rosa Parks <u>explored</u> the city as she tried to ride the bus.	Rosa Parks <u>encountered</u> the police officer when she refused to give up her seat.	Rosa Parks <u>exchanged</u> money to ride the bus.
Strong	Parks <u>explored</u> a new form of non-violent protest by refusing to give up her bus seat for a white passenger, which sparked a successful boycott of the bus system.	Rosa Parks deliberately <u>encountered</u> segregation enforced under the Jim Crow laws while riding a bus in Montgomery.	The idea of non-violent protest was <u>exchanged</u> nationwide between the Montgomery Bus Boycott and other parts of the Civil Rights Movement.

Sample Topic: _____

	Exploration	Encounter	Exchange
Weak			
Strong			