

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY 2025 Theme Narrative: Rights & Responsibilities in History

The theme for National History Day ® (NHD) 2025 is Rights & Responsibilities in History. It is very broad, allowing students to choose family, local, national, or world history topics. At first glance, the theme seems clear and straightforward. Under greater consideration, however, it is far more complex. So before students choose their topics, we must break down the theme and analyze its parts. It is important to remember that with rights come responsibilities. In the present day, we frequently read and hear discussions about “my rights” or “our rights.” While we all have the right to freedoms such as free speech, we also have a responsibility to use these freedoms in a manner that respects the rights and well-being of others, with an understanding of how that responsibility is necessary for the greater good of all. Thus, the NHD theme for 2025 is focused on both historical rights and responsibilities. NHD projects in 2025 must focus on both as well.

Kansas Related Topics-People, Places, and Events from Kansas History

1. 1902 and 1907 Kansas v Colorado Water Rights Case-Right to Arkansas River Water-Responsibility to Neighboring States
2. Brown v Topeka BOE I OII-Right to Equality and Responsibility to Pursue Legal Remedies
3. Wagon v Prairie Band Pottawatomie Tribe: Right and Responsibilities as a Separate Nation versus State Government.
4. 1846 Kansas Nation Treaty with US Government-Right to Tribal Survival and Fair Management of Resources with Federal Governments Mismanaged Responsibilities
5. Homestead Act 1862-Right to Land Ownership and Responsibility for Improvement and Maintenance of Eco System
6. Pottawatomie Nation Trail of Tears
7. Barbed Wire versus Open Grasslands: Rights of Homesteaders versus Open Range? Who has the rights and responsibilities for grazing rights?
8. 1 st Kansas Colored Kansas Infantry: Right to Fight and Whose Responsibility for Equality in the Civil War Union Army?
9. Exodusters To Kansas: Black Homesteaders on the Prairie: Right to Land Ownership-Responsibility of Improvement
10.1988 Indian Gaming Regulatory Act-Study in Kansas Gaming Laws: Right of Native American to Own and Run Gaming Casinos-Responsibility for Regulation and Legal and Cultural Consequences
11.Harry W. Colmery and the GI Bill of Rights: Rights for Veterans for Education, House, and Medical Treatment versus Responsibility of Government to Take Care of Veterans
12.G. I. Bill of Rights and The Minority Veteran: Rights of Veterans for Equal Treatment under GI Readjustment Act- Government Responsibility To Provide Equal Access

13. REA-Rural Electrification Act-Did FDR have the right to make the US government responsible for modernizing and bringing cheap electric power to the farm? Its short term and long term impact
14. Kansas Act of 1940-Right of Indigenous Tribes to Police Their Own or Responsibility of State and later Federal Government
15. Vietnamese Refugees Resettlement in the Midwest-Rights to Sanctuary-Responsibility of US
16. Buffalo Bill Jones-Right to Hunt Turning to Responsibility of Saving Bison
17. Haskell Indian Nations School-Whose has the right and responsibility for the education of American Indian children and youth? The history and impact of the answer on extinction of culture
18. Donna Sweet-Right and Responsibility for Treating AIDS Patients
19. Ogallala Aquifer-Rights and Responsibilities of Water Management on the High Plains
20. TARC-Frontline Battle for Rights and Responsibilities to Those with Mental Disabilities
21. Menninger Family-Rights and Responsibilities for Humane Treatment of Mentally Ill
22. Orphan Trains-Right and Responsibilities to Orphans for Families-Success or Failures?
23. Robert Ballard-Right To Oceanic Archeology or Profit Versus Responsibility for Preservation: A Titanic of a Question
24. Hattie McDaniel-Right and Responsibility for Equality in Hollywood-From Wichita to Hollywood
25. Morrill Land Grant Institute-Right and Responsibilities for College Education for All 1863- to Present
26. Dwight Eisenhower and Atoms for Peace-Rights and Responsibilities of Peaceful Nuclear Science
27. Eisenhower and McCarthy-Right and Responsibilities of Truth in Government and Media
28. Eisenhower and Little Rock Nine-Rights and Responsibility of Executive Branch to Enforce Federal Court Decision-Desegregation
29. Eisenhower and Federal Highway Act-Rights and Responsibilities for Super Highways to Communities, Cultures, and Commerce
30. Milton Eisenhower and Japanese American Internment Camps-Rights of Citizenship and government Responsibilities During Wartime
31. Popular Sovereignty and Kansas-Rights and Responsibilities of States Citizens to Choose Slavery or Anti-Slavery Status
32. Amelia Earhart-Women-Right to Fly and Responsibility to mentor others
33. Bob Dole and the American Disabilities Act-Responsibility to Provide Open Doors Responding to Civil Rights for the Disabled
34. Bob Dole and The Patent and Trademark Act Amendments of 1980—Bayh-Dole Act-Right to Patents and Responsibility to Inventive Reform

35. Gordon Parks-Providing a Window into Civil Rights and Responsibilities Through Social Commentary and Photography
36. Erin Brockovich - Pacific Gas & Electric Lawsuit-Rights of Victims and Responsibility of Companies
37. Lucinda Todd-Pioneering Civil Rights Advocate of Brown v BOE
38. Marcet and Emanuel Haldeman-Julius-Parents of the Paperback Book-Right to Read for Everyone and Responsibly Bring Low-cost Books to the Masses
39. Wes Jackson-Rights and Responsibilities of Farming Within Nature-Ecological Work with The Land
40. Kansas Nebraska Act-Congress Advocating Responsibility of State Admittance and People's Rights to Decide on Slavery
41. Mary Lease and the Populist Party-Rights and Responsibilities of Agriculture and Farmers
42. Isaac McCoy-Indian Mission Schools-Responsibility to Assimilate or Native Nations Right to Educate Their Youth
43. Medicine Lodge Treaty 1867-Lost Native Rights, Won Railroad Right of Way, and Failed Responsibility of Federal Government
44. Saturnino Alvarado: One Father's Fight for Children's Right to Equal Education in Kansas City, Kansas
45. Charles Scott, John Scott, and Charles Bledsoe-Fighting for the Right for Educational Equality and Responsible Government Enforcement-Seeds of the Brown v BOE
46. Santa Fe Trail-Right and Responsibilities of Early American Trade and Commerce
47. Oregon Trail-Right and Responsibilities of Emigrants-Crossing the Prairies
48. Dockum Drugstore Sit-in: Sowing the Seeds of Civil Rights Protests