

## 2014 “Rights & Responsibilities in History” Thesis Statement Examples

background → topic rights      responsibilities      *immediate impact*      **long-term significance**

### I. “Tuskegee Experiment: No Rights, Plenty of Responsibilities”

In the segregated 1930s, when blacks were considered physically and mentally inferior to whites, the Tuskegee Experiment was created as a back-up plan in the event of a national emergency. Even though they did not yet have civil rights amongst their countrymen, the Tuskegee Airmen took on the responsibility of defending their country during WWII. *The Airmen’s success led to President Truman’s 1948 executive order 9981, with the U. S. Air Force becoming the first service to soar above the color line. Today, 40% of America’s military personnel is non-white.*

### II. “Mississippi Institute: Providing the Right to Learn”

Three decades before Helen Keller made her breakthrough understanding of ‘water’ (1884), and at a time when there were very few educational opportunities for deaf people, the Mississippi Legislature established the Mississippi Institution for the Deaf and Dumb (March 1, 1854) in Jackson, Mississippi. Because it was believed that all students deserved the right to learn and communicate, the Mississippi Legislature took the responsibility to provide that opportunity. *At first instructors were difficult to find, but the Institution currently serves 150 students each year and has prepared many to attend universities, including Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C.*

### III. “Phillip Martin: Mississippi Choctaw’s Moses”

After they somehow survived Indian Removal in 1830, the Indian Reorganization Act of 1945 gave the Mississippi Choctaw Indian Tribe the right to settle in Neshoba County. However, they continued to struggle economically due to bigotry, cultural isolation, and lack of jobs. In 1960, Phillip Martin, who was later called the ‘Moses of the Choctaw’, took responsibility to help his people restore their culture. *Serving in leadership for nearly 5 decades, Martin took the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians from abject poverty to prosperity.*

### IV. “President Truman: Military Right and Responsibility”

As World War II raged on, there was great debate at the highest levels of the United States Government regarding the use of the atomic bomb. President Truman, taking the responsibility to minimize the loss of human lives, made the decision that he also had the right to accomplish that by any means possible. *The dropping of the atomic bomb in Japan ended World War II, and began the Atomic Age.*