

## PLANNING TOOL: Crafting a Central Theme

OR 2

What topics have you found to be engaging for your students in the past? What are some current events that might be relevant to the curriculum and engaging for students?

What are you excited about in studying or teaching U.S. history? What are some of your interests or passions that you might incorporate into a course theme?

Are there any historical works that you have read recently that have made a big impression on your thinking? Look back at your personal why from Chapter I—what are some of your motivations for teaching thematically?

What words or phrases seem to recur in your state history standards? In your school's course of study? In your textbook? In your past course curriculum?

Have a conversation with a colleague in the Social Studies or English/Language Arts Department. What are some key themes they have used to explore their content with students?