**Example Choice and Essay**

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| ***Topic Choice #1*** |
| Infamous Crimes of the Civil Rights Era |
| ***My contribution to this project could include…*** |
| Since I read Rosa Parks: My Story and Claudette Colvin: Twice Towards Justice, I can find some textual evidence about Jeremiah Reeves. Reeves was a teenager who was arrested for the rape of a white woman. However, many feel he was anything but guilty of the crime. Yet, he was found guilty and executed the day he turned twenty-one. This was an infamous crime of the civil rights era. |

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| **Example Essay** |
| Could you imagine being on death row as a teenager and executed the day you turned twenty-one? Jeremiah Reeves suffered this fate due to racism of the South. Reeves was a teenager who was arrested for the rape of a white woman. However, many believe that Reeves really committed no crime. Furthermore, the execution of Reeves was a little known but important event during the civil rights era. Both Claudette Colvin and Rosa Parks were inspired to stand up for civil rights because of the tragic death of Jeremiah Reeves.  Rosa Parks remembered the case of Jeremiah Reeves in her book *Rosa Parks: My Story*. Parks remembers the details of the events leading to his arrest. Parks recalls, Reeves “was a delivery driver, a teenager. A white woman used to have come over to her house (they were having an affair)” (Parks 85). When a neighbor noticed them together, the woman whom Jeremiah Reeves was seeing, “started yelling rape.” (Parks 85). Furthermore, Parks gravely remember the trial and execution. “There was never any evidence against Jeremiah Reeves, except the woman’s word (Parks 86). She called Parks death a tragedy and said, “sometimes it was hard to keep going” in light of these events.  Colvin was a teenager when she refused to give up her bus seat before Rosa Parks. Jeremiah Reeves was a schoolmate and neighbor of Claudette Colvin. For Colvin, the execution of Reeves was an even greater shock. She said, “Jeremiah Reeves arrest was the turning point of my life (Hoose 23). She remembers Reeves “like a rock star because he was so stylish,” and “he was a wonderful drummer in bands around town” (Hoose 24). Thanks in part to the efforts of Colvin, her school friends and the NAACP, Reeves received a second trial, but “after two days testimony, the new jury-entirely white-took only thirty-four minutes to restore Reeves’ death sentence.” Claudette Colvin was furious about the execution of Reeves.  So, Jeremiah Reeves and his death clearly inspired both Rosa Parks and Claudette Colvin to stand up for their rights. While the execution of Jeremiah Reeves was shocking and unjust, his death may have inspired these to great civil rights pioneers to get the rights they deserved and Jeremiah Reeves was denied. |

**Example Choice and Essay**

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| ***My Approved Topic*** |
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| ***My Presentation Format*** |
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| ***My contribution to this project will include…*** |
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**Essay Planning**

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| ***Organization Structure for Essay*** | | |
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| ***Textual Evidence for Essay*** | ***Book*** | ***Page*** |
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| ***MLA Citations for Books I Have Read Related to This Project*** |
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| ***MLA Citation Format*** |
| Author last name, first name. Title in italics. City: Publisher, Year. |