

NHD Thesis Proofs

Your NHD thesis statement really consists of two parts: the actual statement you are trying to prove and the three subtopics you are using for proof. This is the real “meat” of your project and should be based mostly on the primary sources you found while conducting your research.

For each subtopic, write a paragraph of approximately 200 – 300 words that summarizes your key points and proves the initial part of your thesis. For each paragraph, be sure to include information from your primary sources such as direct quotes, statistics, etc. You must be sure to include parenthetical citations for these primary sources where appropriate.

Please use the following format and criteria to complete the Thesis Proofs.

FORMAT: TYPED

Name:

Topic:

Thesis Statement: Please underline the actual statement you are trying to prove & number the 3 subtopics.

SAMPLE:

Casey White

Topic: The US Boycott of the 1980 Olympics

Thesis Statement: In an effort to force the USSR to follow the political ideas of the United States, President Jimmy Carter’s decision to boycott the 1980 Moscow Olympics was unjust to the athletes, went against the games principles, and damaged the spirit of the American people.

Subtopic #1 Proof: The decision to boycott the 1980 Summer Olympics affected the United States athletes greatly. They were the ones who trained so hard in the months and years leading up to the Olympics, yet no one had considered them when the boycott was announced. Many of the athletes were upset immediately and again in the years to follow since the USSR did not pull out of Afghanistan until almost a decade after the Moscow Olympics had ended. Therefore the athletes felt this boycott had little effect on Soviet troops withdrawing from the country (ESPN, 19 Sept. 2000). Athlete Craig Beardsley explained, "If it was going to do some good, then we could sacrifice. But as time went on, as we realized what little impact it had, I became angry for what the boycott did to all these people, my friends and teammates, and people in all those other countries too (Time, 21 Jan. 1980). Many US athletes did not even get a second chance at competing in an Olympics. President Carter had taken

away their chance to be the best athletes in the world; to show everyone how good they really were. Not only was Jimmy Carter's decision unjust to America's Olympic athletes but it also had a lasting effect on America and its people.

Subtopic #2 Proof: President Jimmy Carter used the Olympics as a political statement to the Soviet Union. The decision to boycott made the games a political focus all over the U.S. Many supporters of the games argued that a boycott for any political reason was totally wrong and inappropriate. "If the Olympic Games are to survive," said Don Miller, executive director of the United States Olympic Committee (U.S.O.C) " they must be apolitical and remain in the private sector" (Time, 21 Jan. 1980). Even before the boycott, people had opposed the idea such as Willi Daume of the West German Olympic Committee, who said "I must speak out once again against political pressure on international sports and Olympics. They are not the place to resolve political disputes. (Lewis Anthony). People all around the United States and the world had agreed with such ideas as Willi Daume and Don Miller's yet, Jimmy Carter's athletes were still banned by the American Government from attending the games.

Subtopic #3 Proof: By forcing the United States Olympic athletes to stay home from the summer games, President Carter also damaged the spirit of the American people. The Olympics were no longer interesting for Americans to watch, since they no longer had the opportunity to see their American athletes compete for the gold against the best around the world. One of the United States closest allies, Britain, conducted a poll, which showed that in a 2-to-1 vote the British public wanted their athletes to go to Moscow. Since Britain and the United States are such close allies, it could also be implied that American people would have also voted this way. France, another ally of the United States also sent their Olympic athletes to the Moscow games.