

### Student Activity 3: Putting the Thesis Statement to Work

**The DBQ:** *Describe the Haymarket defendants' beliefs about violence, and explain why those beliefs did or did not justify the great fear many in Chicago felt toward the anarchists during their trial.*

Here are the two acceptable thesis statements from Activity 2:

*In the hard times of the late 1880s, the anarchists were sure that real efforts to reform society would lead to violence. However, they did not want violence or practice it themselves, and so the public's fears about them were not justified.*

*The anarchists claimed they only backed violent self-defense, but they did often talk very positively about political violence. Given hard times in Chicago in 1886, the public's hysteria and its fears about the anarchists are understandable.*

**Your assignment:** Choose one of the above two statements to work with. Then from the sources for this lesson, choose three that best back up the thesis and at least one source that may call that thesis into question or seem to qualify it. List these sources, explain your choices and discuss them with the class.

#### Three primary sources that support the thesis

Source:

Why it supports the thesis:

Source:

Why it supports the thesis:

Source:

Why it supports the thesis:

#### One source that does not support the thesis

Source:

Why it does not supports the thesis:

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Source: <http://teachinghistory.org/teaching-materials/teaching-guides/22206>