

The background features a stylized mountain range with green peaks. A thick, textured orange band runs horizontally across the middle of the image, creating a layered effect.

Mastering the Thesis Statement

Taking Projects from Good to Great!

Nuts & Bolts of the Thesis

Step 1: Theme

6th-12th Grade: CONFLICT & COMPROMISE

4th & 5th Grade: TRIUMPH & TRAGEDY

Nuts & Bolts of the Thesis

Step 2: Topic

- Focus, focus, focus
- Not too big, not too small
- Find the “fulcrum”

Nuts & Bolts of the Thesis

Step 3: “Becoming an Expert” -- Context

- What happened before?
 - What happened after?
 - What happened concurrently?
 - Why do we care?
-
- DRAW IMPACTS – short- and long-term

A Thesis Statement is NOT...

- A statement of what you already know
- A catch-all
- A grandiose claim
- A counterfactual

A Thesis Statement IS...

- The “SO-WHAT?”
- Falsifiable
- Possibly a unique claim... but maybe a reiteration of a claim someone else has made
- Supported by primary source evidence and bolstered by secondary source evidence

The MAGIC Formula

Topic + Theme + Impact =
SUPER AWESOME MAGIC THESIS

The MAGIC Formula

- Concise topic overview
- Theme keywords
- Short-term impact
- Long-term impact

The GOOD & the BAD

The United States was the first country to go to the moon.

In 1957, the Soviet Union's successful Sputnik satellite launch forced the United States to react with the revolutionary space program.

Oskar Schindler saved Jews during the Holocaust.

Oscar Schindler took a stand against Nazi extermination policies by using his business to save the lives of thousands of Jews.



QUESTIONS?

GARBAGE THESIS STATEMENTS

During the Revolutionary War, the
Founding Fathers changed the world.

If Hitler would have not been defeated,
he would have invaded the United
States.

The Great Depression was the worst
economic disaster in the history of man
kind.

Rachel Carson wrote Silent Spring in
1962.

The Ku Klux Klan ruled Colorado in
the 1920s.