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”
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 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?
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 mankind.

Rachel Carson wrote Silent Spring in 1962.

The Ku Klux Klan ruled Colorado in the 1920s.