

## “Taking a Stand in History” Making Meaningful Theme Connections

The strongest theme connection may not be the first thing that comes to your mind. Consider all the ways you can connect a topic to the theme.

	<b>Weak Connection</b>	<b>Strong Connection</b>
<b>There is a difference between “having an opinion” and “taking a stand”</b>	Alice Paul took a stand by believing that women should have the right to vote. <i>(Taking a stand is more than just having an opinion. What did she do to change things?)</i>	Alice Paul took a stand for women’s suffrage through protest, including picketing the White House, imprisonment, and a hunger strike.
<b>For “thing” topics, go beyond the object and consider how it was used to change history</b>	Jonas Salk took a stand against Polio by inventing the first successful vaccine against the disease in 1955. <i>(Just inventing the vaccine isn’t really taking a stand. What did he <u>do</u> with the vaccine?)</i>	After inventing the Polio vaccine in 1955, Jonas Salk took a stand for public health through vaccination campaigns and a refusal to patent his invention.
<b>Do more than just use the theme words</b>	Rosa Parks took a stand by sitting down on the bus. <i>(Take it a step further and go beyond just the physical act of sitting down/standing up.)</i>	Rosa Parks took a stand through non-violent protest, refusing to give up her seat and inspiring a citywide bus boycott.
<b>Make sure the person/group is doing something on purpose, and not just doing something</b>	Anne Frank took a stand against Nazis by keeping a diary during the Holocaust. <i>(Was writing a diary take a stand <u>on purpose</u>, or just recording her experiences?)</i>	Miep Gies took a stand against the Nazi Holocaust by hiding Anne Frank and her family, saving her diary from destruction and helping to share her story with the world.
<b>Try looking for another point of view</b>	By building the biggest ship on the seas at the time, the owners of the Titanic took a stand for the limits of human achievement. <i>(Were they really taking a stand, or just trying to make money?)</i>	After the sinking of the Titanic government agencies took a stand for public safety, leading to improved rules on shipbuilding and operations, such as the number of lifeboats.
<b>Go beyond just leaders and consider the role of everyday citizens</b>	Many people changed history forever by taking a stand against slavery by helping with the Underground Railroad. <i>(This is really general and going to be hard to prove. Is there a specific story to look at?)</i>	Harriet Tubman’s stand put her in serious personal danger as she violated the Fugitive Slave Law by leading enslaved people to freedom on the Underground Railroad.
<b>People don’t always take a stand for “good”</b>	The people of Salem took a stand against witchcraft in the 1690s, executing 20 people. <i>(Leaders in Salem may have believed they were doing the right thing, even if they were later proved wrong.)</i>	The mass hysteria in Salem caused town leaders to take a stand against the imaginary threat of witchcraft during the 1690s, causing the deaths of 20 innocent people.
<b>Avoid turning historical figures into heroes or villains</b>	Abraham Lincoln was the greatest president ever for taking a stand and freeing the slaves with the Emancipation Proclamation. <i>(Historical figures are often not all good or all bad. Make sure not to generalize.)</i>	Abraham Lincoln took a partial stand with the Emancipation Proclamation, freeing only the slaves in the states in rebellion.