“Taking a Stand in History”
Making Meaningful Theme Connections

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weak Connection</th>
<th>Strong Connection</th>
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| There is a difference between “having an opinion” and “taking a stand” | Alice Paul took a stand by believing that women should have the right to vote. *(Taking a stand is more than just having an opinion. What did she do to change things?)*  
Alice Paul took a stand for women’s suffrage through protest. Including picketing the White House, imprisonment, and a hunger strike. |
| For “thing” topics, go beyond the object and consider how it was used to change history | Jonas Salk took a stand against Polio by inventing the first successful vaccine against the disease in 1955. *(Just inventing the vaccine isn’t really taking a stand. What did he do with the vaccine?)*  
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. |
| Do more than just use the theme words | Rosa Parks took a stand by sitting down on the bus. *(Take it a step further and go beyond just the physical act of sitting down/standing up.)*  
Rosa Parks took a stand through non-violent protest, refusing to give up her seat and inspiring a citywide bus boycott. |
| Make sure the person/group is doing something on purpose, and not just doing something | Anne Frank took a stand against the Nazis by keeping a diary during the Holocaust. *(Was writing a diary taking a stand on purpose, or just recording her experiences?)*  
Miep Gies took a stand against the Nazi Holocaust by hiding Anne Frank and her family, saving her diary from destruction and helping share her story with the world. |
| Try looking for another point of view | 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. *(Were they really making a stand, or just trying to make money?)*  
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. |
| Go beyond just leaders and consider the role of everyday citizens | Many people changed history forever by taking a stand against slavery by helping with the Underground Railroad. *(This is really general and going to be hard to prove. Is there a specific story to look at?)*  
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. |
| People don’t always take a stand for “good” | The people of Salem took a stand against witchcraft in the 1690s, executing 20 people. *(Leaders in Salem may have believed they were doing the right thing, even if they were later proved wrong.)*  
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. |
| Avoid turning historical figures into heroes or villains | Abraham Lincoln was the greatest president ever for taking a stand and freeing the slaves with the Emancipation Proclamation. *(Historical figures are often not all good or all bad. Make sure not to generalize.)*  
Abraham Lincoln took a partial stand with the Emancipation Proclamation, freeing only the slaves in the states in rebellion. |