Fun facts about Abraham Lincoln:
- Born February 12, 1809
- Died April 15, 1865, age 58
- Married Mary Todd
- 4 sons, only 1 lived to adulthood
- 8 years in Illinois Legislature
- Famous debates with Stephan Douglas in 1858 in Senate race
- Aquarius
- His face is on the $5, and the penny
- Age 52 when he took office in 1861
- His Vice Presidents were Hannibal Hamlin and Andrew Johnson
- Six feet four inches tall

Questions from Thesis Development Worksheet:
1. Topic: Abraham Lincoln and the Emancipation Proclamation
2. Who: Abraham Lincoln
3. What: To threaten the Confederacy into ending war, Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation to free all slaves in rebelling states and counties.
4. Where: America, D.C., South (rebelling states and counties)
5. When: January 1, 1863, first draft was in July 1862
6. Why did it happen: To end slavery and convince the South to rejoin the Union, gain military strength as freed slaves could join the Union Army.
7. Why is it important? Psychological boost to abolitionist argument. It changed the legal status of slaves in rebelling areas. It also made the Civil War officially about freeing slaves and not just about restoring the Union as Lincoln stated in his Inaugural Address.
8. How was this topic connected to Triumph and Tragedy in History? The North and South were unable to compromise on the issue of slavery, which resulted in a military conflict in the Civil War.
9. What was the impact or historical significance? The lasting legacy of Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation made the Civil War officially about freeing slaves and not just restoring the Union.

Thesis: On January 1 1893, during heightened concerns about Union victory in the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, freeing enslaved people in the Confederate States. While the proclamation was only a technical triumph for enslaved people, it did make the ending of slavery an explicit war goal, inspire Union troops, and laid the foundation for the passage of the 13th amendment.
WORKSHEET: THESIS DEVELOPMENT
Sample: The Montgomery Bus Boycott

WHO: Who was involved? Who was affected? Rosa Parks, Citizens in Montgomery, Civil Rights Movement leaders, Montgomery’s government officials

WHAT: What happened? Rosa Parks refused to give up her bus seat to a white passenger, which violated a law enforcing segregation on Montgomery city buses. She was arrested and went to jail. Civil rights leaders, including Martin Luther King, Jr., organized a boycott of buses and challenged the law as unconstitutional.

WHERE: Where was/were the place(s) it took place? Montgomery, Alabama

WHEN: When did it happen? How long of a time period was it? Rosa Parks was arrested on December 1, 1955. The boycott started on December 5 and lasted for 381 days.


WHY: Why is it important? What were the outcomes? The boycott forced change in Montgomery and succeeded in overturning the law requiring racial segregation on public transportation. This success inspired other Civil Rights Movement protests and helped Martin Luther King, Jr. develop nonviolent strategies to fight segregation.

THEME CONNECTION: Triumph and Tragedy in History

- Triumph: After more than a year of protest, the boycott succeeded in raising awareness of injustice and legally challenging racial segregation on public transportation
- Tragedy: Racial segregation in the United States was a disastrous event and an unjust chapter in history that let to discriminatory treatment of Americans.

Put it all together into a thesis statement.

Protesting the tragedy of racial segregation, Rosa Parks was arrested on December 1, 1955 in Montgomery, Alabama for refusing to give up her bus seat to a white passenger. Through the year-long bus boycott that followed, boycott leaders triumphed in desegregating public transportation, opening doors for other civil rights movement victories.
WORKSHEET: THESIS DEVELOPMENT

TOPIC: ____________________________________________________________________________________

WHO: Who was involved? Who was affected?

WHAT: What happened? What was the main event?

WHERE: Where was/were the place(s) it took place?

WHEN: When did it happen? How long of a time period was it?

WHY: Why did it happen? What caused it?

WHY: Why is it important? What were outcomes?

THEME CONNECTION: Triumph and Tragedy in History

- Triumph: _____________________________________________________________________________
  _____________________________________________________________________________________

- Tragedy: _____________________________________________________________________________
  _____________________________________________________________________________________

Put it all together into a thesis statement.

________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________

What evidence have you found that supports your thesis?

________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________