**NHD 2021: THESIS DEVELOPMENT WORKSHEET**

**TOPIC:**

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**WHO:** Who was involved? Who was affected?

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**WHAT:** What happened? What was the main event?

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

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**WHEN:** When did it happen? How long was the time period?

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**WHY:** Why did it happen? What caused it?

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**WHY:** Why is it important? What were the outcomes?

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**CONNECTION TO THEME**: *Communication: The Key to Understanding in History*

How does your topic connect to communication and understanding?

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**Put it all together into a thesis statement.**

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**Can you prove it?**

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**How? Explain**.

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**NHD 2021: THESIS DEVELOPMENT**

**TOPIC:**

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| FDR’s Fireside Chats |

**WHO:** Who was involved? Who was affected?

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| Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the President of the United States. Over 60 million Americans across the country. |

**WHAT:** What happened? What was the main event?

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| FDR gave regular “fireside chats” – radio broadcasts in which he presented his political ideas, programs, and responses to current events. He spoke informally so everyone could understand. |

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

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| FDR spoke from the White House in Washington, D.C., but he reached the living rooms of Americans across the country. This event had effects for the whole country. |

**WHEN:** When did it happen? How long was the time period?

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| FDR conducted his fireside chats as president between 1933 and 1944. This period covered some important events in American history, like the Great Depression and the banking crisis, the development of the New Deal, and World War II. |

**WHY:** Why did it happen? What caused it?

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| FDR wanted to give addresses over the radio so that Americans could hear his words directly, rather than having newspapers control the discourse around his policies and ideas. He hoped that these chats would help his ideas gain approval among the public. |

**WHY:** Why is it important? What were the outcomes?

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| FDR was able to gain the American people’s trust through his fireside chats. His chats promoted an openness between the President and the public which has continued through the subsequent presidencies. The relationship that he cultivated with the public allowed him to pass policies that changed the United States. |

**CONNECTION TO THEME**: *Communication: The Key to Understanding in History*

How does your topic connect to communication and understanding?

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| FDR’s fireside chats are an example of mass communication – in this case, radio addresses – that had an impact on American history. FDR changed the way the President communicates with the public and encouraged Americans to understand the world around them without condescending to them. |

**Put it all together into a thesis statement.**

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| From 1933 to 1944, Franklin Delano Roosevelt periodically held “fireside chats” – radio broadcasts in which he presented his political ideas, programs, and responses to current events – that reached over 60 million Americans across the country. These broadcasts helped Roosevelt gain public trust and support for his programs, helped Americans understand the political decisions of the President, and ultimately changed the way the President communicates with the public. |