Using 5W Questions to Create a Thesis Statement

Theme: Leadership

Interest Area/Topic: Eleanor Roosevelt

Narrowed Subject: Eleanor Roosevelt’s Role as First Lady

Who: Eleanor Roosevelt, wife of President Franklin D. Roosevelt

What: Eleanor Roosevelt’s role as first lady

Where: Washington, DC, The White House

When: 1933 until 1945

Why: Eleanor Roosevelt was reluctant to become first lady, in part because earlier first ladies had concentrated mostly on household issues.

Why does it matter: Eleanor Roosevelt wanted to redefine the role. As first lady, she took an active role in politics. She encouraged other women to do the same. She was a strong supporter of women’s rights.

Short-term Impact: Eleanor Roosevelt encouraged women of her day to become politically active and she presented a model of a “working woman” in The White House.

Long-term Impact: By expanding the role of first lady beyond the “hostess” realm, Eleanor Roosevelt opened the door for future first ladies to embrace activist causes.

Final Thesis Statement: