Process Paper

I chose the New York newsboys strike of 1899 for a few reasons. First, I wanted to choose
something related to labor history, and after that I had to think about the theme and how labor history might pertain to the theme of communication. Then, in my exploration of labor history events, I came upon the newsboys strike. I remembered last year I watched the Disney movie about the strike and I had fond memories about it. I wanted to learn more about it and as I researched it I decided it was a good fit for History Day and it was also interesting to me, so I decided to pick it.

The way I conducted my research was online. First I did simple google searches, which led me to
some other projects about the period and about the Newsboys. I looked at references, footnotes, and bibliographies from those projects to locate primary sources. Second, I used the Library of Congress: here I found an overview article about the strike that linked a research page which gave me sources on the strike. Third, there was a wikipedia article on the strike, which had its sources listed on the bottom which aided in research. Finally, as I had questions during the writing, I would do a google search, find a few different sources and check their main page to see if they had validity and then I would cross examine them to find the common threads that would likely be true.

The reason I chose the website format is because I've done it the past two years and I've enjoyed
its flexibility. Whether that flexibility is being able to add videos and photos or the large word count that gives room for big paragraphs. I started writing fairly linearly: starting from the background and ending by writing my thesis. After I had completed my thesis I went back through my paragraphs and added stuff to support my thesis statement.

This year's theme relates to my topic in two main ways, the first way is that the Newsboys were
the main way communication got around the city: at the time there was no TV or personal radios. At the time of the strike, most people communicated with the rest of the world through print or in-person (speeches, rallies, and word-of-mouth). The work of the Newsboys was crucial for the communication of news in large cities. Newspapers were so important that there were usually two papers each day in large cities, a morning edition and an evening edition and there were many newspapers to choose from, not just one or two. The second way the newsboys strike relates to the theme of communication is that the newsboys organized and won with their strong verbal communication. They talked to each other and used both word of mouth and rallies to communicate. The rallies especially helped generate enthusiasm and solidarity in both the ranks of the newsboys and the general public.