Japanese Americans-Rights and Responsibilities during World War II

Shay Bidani and Jay Desai

Senior Division

Group Website

Process Paper

Why we chose this topic:

Two years ago, we had collaborated for NHD and we enjoyed the process. This year, we decided to collaborate again and were really interested in researching a topic in American history. World War II had always been a common interest for both of us. We did not, however, want to heavily focus on Nazi Germany and the concentration camps. We felt this topic had been discussed in depth numerous times and decided to focus on the segregation occurring within the United States instead; the Japanese American internment camps.

How we conducted our research:

We were insistent on starting our research with print sources, specifically personal accounts of people who had to go through and deal with the internment camps. We felt introducing a more personal perspective would emphasize our ideas. Next, we proceeded to find seventy-five sources total as a pool of possible sources we would be able to use in our website. This would provide a wide range of sources, which we could utilize. We went to different public libraries, browsed for images on the Internet, and looked up various sources as well on the Internet. We took notes and decided to start our annotated bibliography immediately, so it would not be left until the last minute. As soon as we finished our bibliography, we got our notes and images organized so we could directly add it to our website.

How we created and developed our website:

Registering for Weebly with the provided NHD link made it easy for us to get started. We began by the basic design, selecting templates, fonts, colors, and images. Our basic layout consisted of an image and text for each page. After we had at least one image and a paragraph for each page, we decided to individualize each page, adding multimedia clips, more images, music, and captions. We finalized our thesis statement, adding background information for a better understanding of our topic, and finally edited our home page. Our home page was designed to be user-friendly and yet informative. Finally, we practiced our presentation with each other, asking each other various questions relating to our topic to ensure both of us had full knowledge.

How our project relates to the theme:

Sending Japanese Americans to internment camps was a complete violation of their rights. Our topic discusses why and how the United States justified their decision. We expanded our discussion with how the Japanese Americans felt during this time and how other U.S. citizens reacted to this treatment. Our topic explains how the internment camps were considered a violation of rights, similar to the theme of rights and responsibilities.

(442 words)