

The Greensboro Sit-In

Junior Division | Group Website

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Thesis Statement: The Greensboro Sit-In, a non-violent student protest, energized African-American youth to stage sit-ins and protests throughout the country and ignited a movement that grew with support from blacks and whites until new Civil Rights legislation was passed assuring African-Americans equal rights.

The Greensboro Sit-In was selected by our group after two brief meetings in which we compared, discarded, and selected topics between our two lists of ideas. The first meeting focused on comparing both lists of History Day topics, then narrowing and combining both into one list of about ten subjects. After this we conducted limited research on each possible topic removing uninteresting topics or those lacking enough easily accessible information. Next we eliminated topics too renowned that may have been picked by other competitors. Then we each chose topics we found interesting and had the most potential. The second meeting consisted of selecting the final topic. Both of us had the Greensboro Sit-In as our top pick, so it was selected for our History Day entry.

When gathering information on our topic, we went to the public library. We asked the reference librarian for help on where to find information. We were able to find several helpful books on our topic, plus a list of websites through The Parkland Community Library website. We also found many more resources online and three books through inter-library loan. These books proved very important in our project. One of us visited the Smithsonian and saw the exhibit on the Greensboro Sit-In. This was very interesting to experience and added to our research.

We decided to do a website. This category was chosen because we thought it would be useful to learn how to create a website and that this knowledge might be helpful to us later in

life. In creating our project, we first made an outline. With that outline we were able to organize our notes to figure out what information we had and what was still needed. After we found everything we needed, we began to make our website. The pictures from the Smithsonian helped us choose a theme for the website, which represents a lunch counter. The pictures were also used in our project. It was difficult to determine which pieces of information we should or should not put into our website and where those pieces should go. After a lot of hard work, we completed our website.

The Greensboro Sit-In relates to this year's theme because it was an event that was conducted to peacefully gain blacks' equal rights in the United States. By protesting and peacefully challenging rules against their unequal treatment, they made a large ripple in the pool for the fight for equal rights. This event also relates to this year's theme of responsibility. The four African-American students who started the sit-in took it upon themselves to do something. They took it as their responsibility to make a difference in the struggle to end segregation and inspired others to join the movement.