

Process Paper

For this year's theme, "Rights and Responsibilities," I wanted to explore something which involves a part of my Filipino heritage in America. Through my research, I discovered the Delano Grape Strike of 1965 and the role of the Filipino farmworkers in it. I liked this topic because it is about the history of Filipinos who came to America, very much like my own family which was originally from the Philippines.

The topic shows how the "Manong generation" who arrived in the United States from the Philippines starting in the 1920's lived and survived in the American society. My topic focuses on the plight of the Manong generation which led to its participation and role in the Delano Grape Strike of 1965.

I began my research at the Topeka Shawnee County Public Library where I borrowed books about the Delano Grape Strike, Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers (UFW). For some of the books and one video, I had to do Inter Library Loans. I also bought some books which were not available in libraries.

I then went to the internet and found more articles about the Delano Grape Strike and the role of the Filipino farmworkers. I found several good websites: the Walter Reuther Library at Wayne State University, the Jerry Cohen Papers at Amherst College and the Farmworker Movement Documentation Project (independent at the time of my research but as of April 10, 2014 became under the UC San Diego Library). These three websites provided photos, documents, books, essays, video, audio clips and a multitude of primary sources not only about the Delano Grape Strike but also about the farmworker movement, in general.

While doing my research, I looked for people to interview regarding the topic. I managed to contact a few Filipino American History professors and the son of Larry Itliong, Johnny Itliong. It was only Johnny Itliong who was able to respond in time to be included in my project.

I wanted to do a website for the competition because it is multimedia which allows me to use video, audio, pictures, quotes, and so much more from my research. A website allows for creativity in so many ways. It also challenges me to make it easy to navigate and interactive.

My topic relates to the NHD theme, “Right and Responsibilities” because it shows that the Filipino farmworkers, in fighting for their rights, acted responsibly by conducting their strike in a nonviolent manner. This responsible manner of the strike attracted the support of prominent people, groups, sectors and the public, in general, both in the United States and abroad. This widespread support to the farmworkers forced the growers to negotiate and enter into collective bargaining with the farmworkers, making the Delano Grape Strike, one of the most successful and effective strike and boycott in American labor history.

Word Count: (470)