

Process Paper

After learning about slavery in social studies class, I wanted to know more. Researching topics about black history, I found the freedom marches for the right to vote in 1965 interesting. I decided to focus my research on the media's involvement in the movement because I knew they contributed heavily to the success of the Civil Rights movement. Within the topic of media, I focused on "Bloody Sunday," a failed march where hundreds of protesters were tragically beaten by Alabama State Troopers, and the successful march from Selma to Montgomery, which was triumphant mainly attributed to media coverage of the events.

For my topic, I researched many different types of sources, including documentaries, books, websites, newspaper articles, and even comic books. Since my topic is focused on media, I tried to incorporate multiple types of media into my research. I used a comic book about Dr. King that inspired young teens to join the movement, read books obtained from the library, took notes from numerous websites, and also located magazine articles and newspapers from the late 1950s and the early 1960s. Most of my research was done through books and online journal articles from renowned sources such as *The Atlantic* and *Time*. I took many trips to libraries, including my class trip to the main branch of the Cleveland Public Library, where I scanned historic photos of "Bloody Sunday" and used the microfilm machine to download primary articles from old magazines. Another source that was very helpful to me was the *March* books by John Lewis, a Civil Rights activist at the front of the line during the "Bloody Sunday" March. His three books were in graphic novel style, which made them very interesting. All these helpful sources contributed to the understanding of my topic.

In making my website, I had to work hard to keep my word limit down but still convey the message story and analysis. There were many pictures relating to my topic, but I hunted to find the ones that were the most impactful. I really wanted my website to make a statement and

show the involvement and impact of the press. I encountered some difficulties with formatting, but eventually solved them and ended with a finished product that was engaging. On the top of each page, there is a digital drawing I made conveying moments from the movement, a connection to the research I did about the media.

Both the triumph and tragedy are clearly represented. "Bloody Sunday" was a tragedy because of the beating of hundreds of black people on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in 1965. Because the media covered this event, the issue of voting rights commanded national attention and forced presidential action represented by National Guard presence at the next march. With the guard on their side, Civil Rights activists completed the march from Selma to Montgomery, convincing Congress to pass the triumphant Voting Rights Act of 1965, signed by President Johnson on August 10, 1965.