

## Process Paper

This year in choosing my topic, I knew I wanted to explore a new region of research, something that I hadn't done in previous years but also a topic that wasn't known to many people. After some reading, I chose to research topics of World War Two and came across an African-American work stoppage during the war. During my research, I found an unique and engrossing book, *The Port Chicago Mutiny*, by Robert L. Allen which launched my research on this topic after finding this topic compelling. I learned that through the work stoppage conducted by 50 sailors, known as the Port Chicago 50, the military began desegregation for minorities through this protest. I then realized how this topic fitted perfectly in this year's theme of Communication in History: The Key to Understanding by the Port Chicago 50 helping the American people and government understand the segregation and discrimination that prevailed in the Armed Forces for minorities by communicating it through their work stoppage.

I knew that I wanted to showcase my research on a website this year because through this platform I would be able to demonstrate the information through videos, images, quotes, etc. in a way which would be enjoyable and pleasing for someone to look through. My research began through a profoundly informative book called the *The Port Chicago Mutiny* which I received from my school librarian after a brief discussion and search in the library. Following this, I began to look online for information regarding my topic to collect some basic knowledge. After some time of researching through different types of sources such as databases, archives, and books, I found some extremely influential sources such as the Naval Heritage and History Command, Library of Congress, *San Francisco Chronicles*, the National Park Service, and another book, *The Port Chicago 50*. Through these different sites, I found a plethora of primary sources such as letters, documents, newspapers, and especially images, that I used thoroughly throughout my

website. However, my most significant source was the interviews on the University of Berkeley website of the Port Chicago 50, conducted by Robert L. Allen. These interviews allowed me to understand their bravery, emotions, thoughts, and primary information of what exactly occurred during that time through people who lived through the events. After finding these different sources, I was able to construct a well made website that used different methods to get my information across.

The work stoppage of the Port Chicago 50 communicated to the country of the blatant segregation and extremely unsafe working conditions African-Americans faced in the Armed Forces, which helped Americans, the military, and the government understand the racism minorities continuously faced in the defense industries. This event proved to be crucial in history as it would lead to the Navy implementing safe procedures of loading ammunition and President Truman to officially integrate the military in 1948, impacting millions of minorities who served selflessly for the country.