

## **Process Paper**

### **Underground Railroad**

My partner and I choose our topic Underground Railroad: Secret Communication to Freedom because we are very interested in the history of the Pre-Civil War South. Out of all the tragic history, the Underground Railroad is one of hope for slaves as well as seeing both black and white people come together to work for a common cause. It fits the theme because in order for it to be successful depended on the secret communication system it developed based on railroad theme words.

We first conducted our research by searching the Internet and our local library to find websites and books about the Underground Railroad. On the internet we found many great resources within the Library of Congress, but unfortunately not many books we felt would help our project were available to us. The interlibrary loan wasn't available to us with the books we wanted to due Covid restrictions. We didn't stop us from continuing researching other options. Other important websites were the National Museum of African American History and Culture, Smithsonian, National Archives, PBS and History.com.

The information we found -pictures, quotes and general information- was put into our research journal. We also used the research journal to cite our sources and do our layout for our website. Once we felt we had enough information, we went through our journal to see how/what information would fit into our layout.

For our presentation we decided to create a website. This would be a way to tell the story in a creative manner. We used the NHD website creator and quickly learned what we could do and couldn't do with this site. We divided up the work on the different tabs between each of us since we had already developed a layout in our research journal. This was a long process of creating each page using the same color scheme and font size to give it a more uniform look. Finally once our website was completed to the best of our ability we typed up our annotated bibliography and process paper.

The historical argument for our topic is how important the secret communication system was needed for slaves during the tragic period in American history. Many people know of the Underground Railroad, but do not have the understanding how the terms used. Another thing to note is the Gag Rule in Congress that silenced abolitionist bills and the slavery issue.

The impact of the Underground Railroad can not be narrowed down to just one thing. The impacts included communicating the ugly truth of slavery, educating others that African Americans could organize without help and a complex, secret communication system that worked. The biggest impact was seeing how men and women of different races could work together for a common goal without discrimination or prejudice toward one another.