Process Paper

When searching for a topic, we were interested in local history as well as grassroots civil rights events. We came across the Ludlow Community Association, a local association that assisted in the integration of the Ludlow neighborhood and related to this year’s theme. Aware of the fact that there were several similar events at the time, we not only deeply researched the LCA, but other civil rights movements as well.

We needed to do a great deal of research on our topic. We spent a lot of time at the Shaker Historical Society and were able to find several primary and secondary sources about the LCA and its impact. We also wanted to relate the LCA to other grassroots civil rights events. We went online and found sources about several other events during the civil rights movements. Next, we went to the Shaker Public Library, where we were able to watch a documentary about the LCA’s efforts in the Ludlow community. We also found interviews of LCA members and Ludlow community online in which they discussed the successful integration of Ludlow. Finally, we interviewed two Shaker residents who were directly affected by the LCA and the Shaker Schools Plan.

We thought a website would be the best format for our topic. We wanted to present audio and visual clips about our topic while being able to write about it at the same time. Additionally, we wanted to be able to interactively relate the LCA to other grassroots civil rights events, which we were able to do in our timeline.

The Ludlow Community Association is an excellent example of this year’s theme of rights and responsibilities. The LCA had a great local impact that can still be seen today in the diversity of the schools as well as the community as a whole. Additionally, the LCA is a superb local example of a larger scale civil rights movement. There were several other events and associations similar to the LCA nationwide. The LCA had the responsibility of creating and maintaining diversity in the Ludlow community, and believed that citizens of all races had the right to live where they wanted to. The LCA made further integration possible and diversified the Ludlow neighborhood. The diverse Ludlow neighborhood affected the rest of the Shaker Heights community, as diversity became an important facet in other neighborhoods and in the school system.