

Redlining Process Paper

Word Count: 331

When we started working on the National History Day project, we each suggested several topics, and decided redlining was the one we were most interested in. One reason was that New York City, where we live, is a city where the effects of redlining are extremely evident. There are clearly segregated sectors, with great disparities in both racial proportion and socioeconomic status. It was fascinating to see that such a legacy was left by redlining, and we wanted to learn more about it.

Our preliminary research was conducted using various online sources. Once we knew more about redlining, we emailed professors and experts in the field. We used government sites, official court cases, historical archives, and academic articles sourced from reputable sites such as Gale and Jstor. *The Color of Law*, by Richard Rothstein, was a great help. Our original focus was on redlining, but we realized it tied in to many legal cases and most importantly, the Fair Housing Act as a definitive point in history that broke the residential racial barrier. Thus, our research shifted to also include that as a central point.

We created a website to present our project due to its efficiency and versatility. Working online fit our schedules, so it was easier to collaborate. A website allowed us to organize and adjust our words, images, and videos until we were satisfied with the end product. We could also present interactive maps of redlined areas, and animate it through the years. Overall, a website helped our project seem cleaner and be finished faster.

Redlining fits into this year's theme of "Breaking Barriers" very well, covering both social and economic aspects. It was a clear barrier to equality between races by preventing African Americans from occupying certain white-dominated areas, but was whittled away by many legal actions such as the Fair Housing Act of 1968. Despite this specific barrier being legally destroyed, its legacy remains in clear socioeconomic disparities in the general population between whites and blacks.