Dred Scott’s Fight for African-American Rights

Zach Czinder

Senior Division

Individual Website

Process Paper

Being in A.P. U.S. History, there isn’t time to dwell on much. While soaring through the Industrial Revolution and the Civil War, the Dred Scott v. Sanford Supreme Court case caught my eye. I couldn’t believe how unjust and unfair the Supreme Court was in this trial. I felt that I wanted to know more about the case. Although I wanted to do a more recent subject, I became drawn in more and more as dove a little deeper into Dred Scott’s life and the struggle he went through. I decided I wanted learn a lot more and maybe inform people a little more about this social injustice.

Beginning in January, my life seemed to revolve around doing more and more research about Scott’s blurry, at times, past. I had a tremendous time vying for as much information as possible about Dred Scott and his family. Although most of the facts and quotes I acquired were located on the computer, I did have the opportunity to browse my local library for clues regarding Scott. Surprisingly, there were quite a few websites with valuable data as well. They provided me with the knowledge required to create a terrific website. Notecard by notecard, I attained the ammo to make my website filled juicy tidbits around every corner. It was a bit difficult to find quality photographs of Scott and his wife due to them living in the 1800s.

As soon as I got the list of possible project categories, I knew which one was for me. The opportunity to create my own website was astounding and it sounded way more exciting than writing a boring paper or making another exhibit. Although I wasn’t a computer whiz, I learned the tricks of the trade fairly quickly. Using Weebly made it so much easier than it would’ve been had I been forced to use another website creator. Within a matter of minutes, I was able to upload a few photos, type in captions, and even create a few pages. Working as an individual, I had the ability to place everything where I wanted it and use the material I thought worked best for my topic.

Thankfully, my topic of the Dred Scott v. Sanford Supreme Court case fit right into this year’s topic of rights and responsibilities in history. The Dred Scott decision was all about the rights of African-Americans to be free and citizens of the United States of America. Additionally, the Supreme Court members had the responsibility to make the correct decision, in which seven were in the wrong. They denied Scott and his family of the freedom they rightfully deserved. My website reveals that injustice that has plagued the nation throughout 1800s and 1900s. From slavery to lynching to the Jim Crow laws, African-Americans have always been put on a lower pedestal than their white counterparts. The Dred Scott decision was another example on the long list.