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My competition entry was about...

...the struggle for African-American rights in past and present: From the Civil Rights Movements in the 1960s to the provocative lyrics of the rap group N.W.A and today's demonstrations organized by Black Lives Matter.



*1997

Topic of history competition:

The Person Who Made History

Year of participation:

2016

Title of your competition entry:

» The Civil Rights Movement «



How did you decide on your topic ?

I was interested in this inspirational fight for equality and also found Martin Luther King's and Malcolm X's different approaches and goals to be very fascinating. It is clearly still a very relevant topic today and that is why I wanted to find out what has changed formally since the 1960s and what has changed in reality.



How did you react when you came upon surprising points during your research?

The biggest difficulty was probably trying to estimate how big the change in society has been. Politically, Americans are now equal whatever their skin colour. However, it is much more difficult to measure if this formal equality also exists in society. We tried to get an idea of the situation by researching tendencies in society such as the recent demonstrations and police shootings, which seem to suggest that racial inequality is still a prevailing problem.



Did the research affect you personally?

Of course, it was quite distressing to read about segregation and the oppression of all citizens of colour. But the fact that white Americans seem to still benefit from racial privilege was much more upsetting for I think we should have come further over the last 50 years. Sadly, much of this information was not new to me but the history competition seemed to be a good opportunity to examine this problem further.



I based my research

- ...on source material
- ...on interviews
- ...on family history
- ...on literature
- ...on the internet
- ...on lyrics

» To understand our present, we must first know our history «

