

Description: As social scientists, we strive to explain, analyze, and interpret social and political events, patterns, and issues. For example, how do Latinos, our largest and fastest growing minority nationality, actually affect the U.S. political system? How does a history of slavery still affect the U.S. today? Why does the U.S. have more people in prison than any other nation in the world?

There are WRONG answers to these questions! Wrong answers to these type questions have led to horrible results for societies and global culture. If we consistently fail to understand what is real, we will consistently fail to understand cause and effect, what it takes for humanity to flourish, what causes unnecessary divisions, what battles are worth fighting, what needs to be changed, and how real change occurs. This is how human progress can be stifled, and societies can move in circles or stay static for hundreds of years: false diagnoses of problems, and/or what it takes to fix it.

After a year of learning about U.S. History and how to think like a social scientist, you will choose one historical event and one related current social issue affecting the Bayview neighborhood, and answer the question: **How much progress has been made?** You will also reflect on our yearlong essential question: **How do we find truth?**

KNOW (Mastery): When we started Project Truth in history we had been learning about Manifest Destiny, the U.S. Constitution and racial and economic justice. We mostly focused on racial and class issues. We did this because later on for the history part of Project Truth we would have to choose a topic of our choice that some way or another would relate to what we were learning. In English class preparation for our Project Truth exhibition we had been doing a lot of practice with writing argumentative essays. Almost every morning we would get a prompt and we would have to write a paragraph, following the structure, on the spot. This prepared us for exhibition where we had to pick an issue in the Bay Area and write an argumentative essay. In both classes we had to learn about persuasion and about finding the truth. For this exhibition it was very important to stay organized because for both classes there was a lot of information necessary to complete the artifacts. The essential questions for this exhibition were, “How do you find the truth?” and “How do you get people to listen?” In order to answer these questions, there was a research that had to be done and to make sure that our research was 100% credible and would lead us to the truth. This was a 3 month process and it was important to understand that in the end, all the time and effort put in would be worth it because you would know the truth about a topic that interested you.

DO (Application): I decided to choose topics that were different from those of most of my classmates because I wanted to find the truth and get people to listen to it on topics that were maybe not as exposed. For history, I chose to research Prostitution and Women’s Rights. I have always chosen topics that I feel strongly about and I wanted to expose the truth about Prostitution. I felt that it was necessary to expose that even when a lot of work has been made when it comes to Women’s Rights, there is still so much work to be done. By choosing these two topics I was hoping to get people to not only understand that women are still oppressed but also open their eyes to a topic that is rarely talked about and that I feel is necessary to address in order to make progress: Prostitution. My research question was, “What progress has been made with the way that society treats women?” In order to find the truth to my question I had to do a lot of

thoughtful research. This meant looking for sources that I knew would truly help me and not just feed me false knowledge. I focused on using testimonies of prostitutes in the Bay Area and interviews to find the truth. For English I decided to write my Argumentative essay on Affirmative Action. I wanted to write about this because I had no idea what it was and I wanted to learn. Turns out Affirmative Action is a law that requires jobs and universities to have a certain percentage of people of color. In my essay I discuss my belief which is that it is not necessary. In order to convey my message I used personal experience, ethos, logos, and pathos. I did all of these things so that I could gain the persons trust and get them to understand where I was coming from. My poster for this exhibition combined both of my artifacts and conveyed the messages that I wanted them to. In order to complete all of the requirements and to make this exhibition successful, I had to Communicate Effectively. These topics are obviously some that can cause controversy and it is important to know that when presenting to people, there can be different ways of communicating. For example, the night of exhibition a lady came up to me and asked if I could present my project to her in Spanish. I was a bit nervous because I speak Spanish, but I have never had to speak it professionally. It took me by surprise but I believe that I got my point across and I appreciated that experience because it helped me grow as a presenter who communicate effectively with different types of people.

REFLECT (Metacognition): This exhibition helped me to grow both as a student as well as a person. As a student I learned that if I choose topics that I am interested in, doing the work will not be as hard. I enjoyed researching about things that I felt a strong connection with. I am very proud of the work that I did for this exhibition not only did I gain knowledge, but I believe that others did as well. I got a lot of positive feedback from the audience when I was presenting. The day of exhibition I made a new friend and he texted me telling me that he was inspired by my passion for my topics. This made me feel accomplished and proud of myself. I grew when it came to using keywords to find credible sources. I always get frustrated when it comes to this and at one point I was getting ready to change topics, but I didn't because they were topics I was passionate about and when you do something because it's your passion, it shows. When I presented my poster I wasn't nervous at all. I think a big part of that is because we have done so many exhibitions already, but also because I truly felt like an expert on the topics of my choice.