

Tape v. Hurley

Sarah Latendrese

Mamie Tape

Senior Division

Individual Website

Website Word Count:

Process Paper Word Count: 500

How did I chose my topic?

Mamie Tape broke barriers and lead the way to the end of segregation in the United States. When it came to choosing my topic, I first thought about things I was passionate about and started doing research with sports, however I did not find anything that sparked my interest. I asked my teacher about topics he thought would relate to the theme, which led me to Mamie Tape. I started my research on her and found that her story was very interesting, so I then furthered my research to create a project that I knew would fit to the Theme, Fighting against the segregation of Chinese students in American schools, Mamie Tape broke barriers in the landmark decision of the California Supreme Court case, Tape v. Hurley.

How did I conduct my research?

I started my research with a simple google search since I had not heard of her before, just so I could get an outline of where I would further my research. My research began at the start of her parents lives, Mary and Joseph Tapes who were both Chinese immigrants. I then asked my teacher where I should gather more information he directed me to do research at the Library of Congress. I was able to get a lot of newspaper articles about the Tape v. Hurley court case. I then went to Washburn University which is where I got three books about Chinese immigration, so I could better understand how Chinese Immigrants were treated as well as other information about the Chinese Exclusion Act.

Why did I choose this category and how did I create my project?

I chose to do an individual website, because I felt it would be the best way to portray Mamie Tape's whole life. Knowing that I was able to have different tabs on my website I knew that I could use those to show the events leading up to the court case as well as showing her

parents background information. I started my website with the background life of her parents to understand where Mamie Tape came from as well as her ethnicity. I knew I needed to talk about how Mamie Tape was denied entrance into a local elementary school which then would lead to the Tape v. Hurley court case. Finally, I needed to emphasize the impact the court case had on history and how she broke barriers.

How does my topic relate to the theme?(Breaking Barriers)

At just eight years old Mamie Tape was already making history and changing the way Chinese Immigrants were treated. Mamie Tape was of Chinese descent, living under the Chinese Exclusion Act was in place which meant that any Chinese Immigrants were unable to get jobs. Her mother Mary Tape enrolled Mamie in Elementary School, however she would not be able to attend school. This led to Mary Tape suing the Spring Valley School District and San Francisco's Board of Education. During the court case Mary Tape brought up many valid arguments that supported her claim that every child no matter their ethnicity should be able to attend school. This would lead to many other cases breaking down discriminations barriers.