

**By Any Means Necessary:
The Black Panther Party's impact on the Civil Rights Movement.**

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Individual Website

Website: **1200 Words**
Process Paper: **500 Words**

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Senior Division Individual Website

By Any Means Necessary: Process Paper

Topic/Theme: For my first time participating in the NHD, I wanted to look into an important turning point in history on a subject that I was personally interested in and connected to. As a young African American, I have been interested in the activist groups that fought for the American Civil Rights Movement for several years now. My older brother introduced me to the Black Panther Party in the first place, and I wanted to find their significance for the civil rights movement. The techniques the Black Panther Party used, getting their start through public-generated indignation, particularly their stance on armed resistance in response to police brutality.

Research: Early in the stages of my project, I focused on developing questions to help me guide my research process. I wanted to understand the what, why, and how behind the BPP's fight for social justice. Initially, I turned to research papers and generic websites to gain a general understanding of the situation. As my project progressed, I then went deeper into my research by examining historical accounts from databases and analyzing images, quotes, and primary sources. However, a significant portion of my research was dedicated to looking into The Black Panther Newspaper and finding interviews with formal members. These sources provided the majority of my information and allowed me to form a well-supported and well-articulated argument.

Process: This year I decided to build a website. I chose my topic and looked through online databases, like article bibliographies, to find sources that could provide background information before drafting content to put on my website. The main reason I decided to go with building a website is that I could be creative with how I approach presenting my information by trying to create a visually appealing and informative product while at the same time supporting my arguments well enough via the use of images/captions, videos or quotes that help support the annual theme.

Argument: The argument I tried to support my thesis is how the Black Panther Party challenged the efficacy of nonviolent protest and radicalized the fight. The black Panther Party fought for equal rights by directly disrupting American society through a philosophy that challenged the authority of racist social institutions, the racial wage-gap discrimination, advocating armed self-defense against police brutality, and promoting the socialization of resources conventionally denied to the African American community by local, state and federal governments.

Significance: The Black Panther Party's philosophical stance in the Civil Rights Movement represents an important turning point by rejecting nonviolent protest, going for armed self-defense, and emphasizing self-determination and autonomy. Their influence extended to other movements (i.e. American Indian Movement, Young Lords, The Brown Berets, and other racial movements). They also established community service programs to address the immediate

community needs, inspiring welfare initiatives like Women, Children & Infants (WIC). Additionally, the actions of the party sparked debates on the Second Amendment. Their radical approach and contributions, as a result, left a lasting turning point.