

The Revolution and Reaction of the 1924 Notre Dame Riot Against the Ku Klux Klan

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My topic ties to the theme because the riot was Notre Dame's revolution against the Ku Klux Klan. The Notre Dame students revolted against the Klan by stealing their robes, breaking their fiery cross of lightbulbs, and by driving them from the city. My topic also ties to the theme because many negative reactions followed the riot. Several Klan members sent letters to Notre Dame's president, criticizing the violence that happened during the riot. There were almost no positive reactions to Notre Dame's part in the riot at the time. The riot was significant in history because it led to a decrease of members in the Klan, specifically in South Bend, and it caused area Klan groups to fall apart.

The historical argument for this topic is that the riot was a revolution against the Klan. Also, after the riot, many reactions followed, most of which were negative, but these were mostly erased after Notre Dame won the 1924 national football championship. The riot was important because it occurred during a climax of anti-Catholic prejudice and at a time when Klan members pervaded Indiana.

I first learned about my topic when my mom found Todd Tucker's book at the library and checked it out. I was intrigued by a part of Notre Dame history that I had never heard of before. I knew I had to research this fascinating part of history as my project. I wanted to do this project to learn more about the Klan's rise in the 1920s, as I had only heard about the Klan that thrived following the Civil War. I learned that the riot occurred during a climax of anti-Catholicism and Notre Dame's 1924 football team helped curb this prejudice.

To conduct my research, I first read Todd Tucker's book, which became the backbone of my research. Next, my mom and I went to the library to find books, and I decided to use a thesis paper as another source of information. I also went online on Newspapers.com and found two articles from the *South Bend Tribune* about the May 17 and May 19 riots. After that, I went to the

Notre Dame Archives eight times after school to explore their collections. Almost all of my website images came from the Notre Dame Archives.

I created my website by first making the homepage and deciding the text settings and colors. Next, I created the webpages in the order they appear on-screen. As each page was created, I added the buttons and attached the links. The content for each page was based on the research I had already done earlier in the fall. After the website was finished, besides the images, I wrote my process paper and finished my annotated bibliography. Finally, I added all the images to my website. In addition, after the Regional Contest, I made a few revisions to my website and paper work, and after the State Contest, I also made a few more.