

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

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Individual Website
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My topic ties to the theme because the riot was Notre Dame's revolution against the Ku Klux Klan (Tucker 95). The Notre Dame students revolted against the Klan by stealing their robes, breaking their fiery cross of lightbulbs, and by overall driving them from the city (Tucker 154). In addition, my topic ties to the theme because many negative reactions followed the riot (Tucker 177). Several Klan members sent letters to Matthew Walsh, the president of Notre Dame, criticizing his students for the violence they helped create (Tucker 179). There were almost no positive reactions to Notre Dame's part in the riot at the time (Tucker 177). The riot was significant in history because it led to a decrease of members in the Klan and it caused area Klan groups to fall apart (Nevel 89).

I first learned about my topic when my mom checked out Todd Tucker's book from the library because she thought I would enjoy it. I was intrigued by a part of Notre Dame history that I had never heard of before. I also went to the Indiana Historical Society's exhibit on the riot in April, and in September when I was brainstorming project ideas, I just knew I had to do this fascinating part of Notre Dame history as my project. I wanted to do this project to learn more about the Klan's rise in the 1920s, because I had only ever heard about the Klan that thrived following the Civil War. I learned that the riot occurred during a climax of anti-Catholic prejudice and that Notre Dame's 1924 football team helped curb this prejudice.

To conduct my research, I first read the entirety of 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 bachelor's thesis paper as another source of information about the riot. I also went online on my dad's Newspapers.com account 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 about the riot. All of my website images came from the Notre Dame Archives.

I created my website by first making the home page and deciding the text settings and colors. I chose the colors of Notre Dame. Next, I created the thesis, background, NHD theme, impact, influence, importance, and timeline pages in that order. As I made my website, I added the buttons and attached the links for each page as each page was created. The content for each page was based on the research I had already done earlier in the school year. After the website was finished, besides the images, I wrote my process paper and finished the annotated bibliography that I had previously started. Finally, I added the images from the Notre Dame Archives to my website.