

The Young Lords: Breaking Barriers for Puerto Ricans

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Website

Website: 3546 words

Process Paper: 349 words

When researching for a topic to conduct our project on, our group agreed that we should research for a topic that we felt a connection towards and could relate to. We looked towards our own personal heritage and ethnicity and while we didn't find any specific topic that fit the mold of "breaking barriers," we stumbled upon the Young Lords Organization. Through briefly researching them, we discovered all the impact and changes they influenced in the Chicago area and we were intrigued in finding out more. We wanted to learn about the experience of how a minority group managed to overcome police and government oppression to create a safe home and community for their people.

Like for many other projects we first turned to online databases to collect primary and secondary sources such as articles and newspapers written about the YLO and by the YLO themselves. We also visited the Depaul Special Archives Collection where we found many interviews, photographs, and newspapers from that time. We also watched several documentaries recommended to us by our instructor. In addition, we got to interview the leader of the Young Lords, Jose Cha Cha Jimenz himself as well as Michael Robert Gonzales, a PhD student who researched the Young Lords.

Although our teacher has provided us with experience on all the platforms available to conduct our project on, we felt as it was better to stay with what we were comfortable with to create the best possible project. Seeing that many of us have had previous experience with creating a website, we knew we could excel in creating a website for the Young Lords Organization.

The NHD's theme for "breaking barriers" fit well with the Young Lords due to the immense amount of discrimination and hardships they had to endure while fighting to protect their people. The YLO fought housing discrimination, police brutality, along with lack of political representation. Although the YLO was not able to overcome all of these obstacles due to the government oppression they faced during the 1960's, they inspired future generations to continue to fight for their rights.