

Process Paper

**Genocide of the Native American Pioneer**

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Individual Website

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When trying to narrow down my choices, I zeroed in on several videos by Ken Burns. There were three main videos that caught my attention. One, in particular, was the documentary about the Sand Creek Massacre. I watched that video at least five times. It reminded me of a similar topic we covered in fourth grade. I have always been interested in topics like the Oregon Trail and westward expansion. I found it fascinating how white settlers reacted so violently and gruesomely toward a different culture. I thought it was preposterous that settlers were paid by the government to legally kill, not only grown men but also women and children of Native American tribes.

When people use the word frontier, most people think about land in the American West and pioneers. My topic is about westward expansion which is crossing a frontier from east to west. White settlers were not the only ones to cross this frontier. Native Americans were forced to move westward against their will. The idea of Manifest Destiny states it is God's will to allow settlers to "overspread the continent".

I began researching my topic using Gail and ProQuest, however, Gail gave me more focused information and provided citations for my annotated bibliography. I also used Google as a search engine which helped me find political cartoons related to my topic. I found it surprising to see so many political cartoons created during this time relating to disagreements between Native Americans and European settlers. While researching my topic, I used a key terms map to help me find related concepts. The key terms map helped me organize dates for my timeline.

I chose a website to display my topic. After I had done my research, I re-read the information and highlighted/circled the most important sections that supported my thesis. It became clear what web pages I wanted to create after I looked at all of the highlights I had done. I used NHDWebCentral to create my website. Before I started, I watched many videos on YouTube on how to use NHD software.

My historical argument conveys the idea that crossing a frontier does not always end in a favorable outcome. When one thinks of crossing a frontier, people usually think of this as having a positive outcome. I wanted to argue the opposite of this idea of a positive outcome. I also wanted to remind people what happened to Native Americans and how they still struggle to recover from the actions of white settlers.

It is important to learn from history to prevent ourselves from making the same mistakes in the future. This topic is also relevant because of its long-term impact on Native American people and culture. Native Americans still struggle with being welcomed into white communities, unemployment, poor education, homelessness, PTSD, and drug abuse. These issues are often handed down from generation to generation. Western

expansion left a whole group of people lost who are still struggling to survive nearly 200 years later.