

## Native American Project Reflection

This project was about learning about Native American history, as well as current problems Native Americans may have. The learning was done through examining primary sources written from both the White, and Native American perspective at the time conflict. Acquiring information was also done by reading many different perspectives and stories of Native Americans. This included true stories from two different Dartmouth students experiencing racism and sexism. A book by Howard Zinn was read also. I definitely learned a lot of information that I had not previously learned, and this was both surprising, and interesting.

The most significant lesson that I have learned in this project is to check other perspectives. Much of the things I had learned about Columbus and Andrew Jackson was very different from what I have now learned after this project. I was definitely surprised by reality. My perspective changed about how much violence and oppression there was against the Native American Population. I really had never realized the historical violence, and how it affected many Native Americans living today. The realization of how this country came to be made me feel uncomfortable. It seems strange to be living in country where hundreds of thousands of people were killed and moved, just for gold, or power, or land. However, I am glad that I am learning this, and not being ignorant to reality of the history of the USA.

In this project, we ended with a seminar about the readings that we had done. Dartmouth stories in *First Persons*, *First People*, Stories in *The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven*, and Chapters by Howard Zinn were all discussed in the seminar. The seminar was a very effective way to conclude this project, as many clarifying questions were answered. There were definitely some differences of opinions that came up, the most interesting to me being the question, "Should the past oppression make our generation feel responsible?". I really thought this was interesting because I had a stance on this issue which was no, we should not feel "responsible" for the past, but rather recognize it. However there were some opinions that were not the same as mine. Some people said we should feel responsible and have minority boosting programs, which I thought was interesting.

The essential question, "How can an examination of multiple sources and perspectives lead to a more enlightened understanding of history AND contemporary social, cultural, and political realities?" can be answered after completing the seminar. The multiple sources that were provided really gave many perspectives. There were biases in all things read, but reading many sources with opposite biases gave a better overall perspective. I feel as if reading multiple sources give a more correct history. I really was surprised by the different evidence and happenings on the same event. This project has taught me and made me realize that many history teaching texts are biased, and I should read multiple sources in order to learn a more correct perspective.