

This topic originated from our interdisciplinary research papers. After playing an educational simulation where we virtually experienced the hardships of the Great Depression and learned the purpose of the New Deal, we were thoroughly intrigued. We rapidly discovered that the New Deal didn't fulfill its goal, which was to repair and rebuild following the Great Depression. Our research paper topic explained how the New Deal created more conflict than it resolved for black Americans. However, for our 2018 National History Day project, we narrowed our lenses and chose to focus on the New Deal's effect on housing specifically because we realized that it has the largest impact and it continues to get worse. We also changed our topic to focus on the Federal Housing Administration (FHA), the main culprit of this housing conflict.

We started to research the topic more thoroughly before searching for our supporting lenses. We visited university libraries to find books analyzing our topic and scoured the internet for reliable information. Researching for NHD helped us shape our own preferred research methods and taught us how to identify the most reliable sources. We created a diverse bibliography by using a variety of primary sources such as the original 1936 FHA *Underwriting Manual*. We obtained as many primary sources as possible by tracing back images and statistics to their original sources. By citing sources along the way, we reduced the workload we would have had to finish later. We ended up doubling the number of sources from the original research paper: our website is unrecognizable from the paper.

We chose to create a website for our NHD project because websites are the most interactive, and their format most effectively conveys our arguments through visuals, text, and audio. In addition, websites are accessible from all locations, so we wouldn't have to deal with constraints such as finding time to meet up and organizing transportation. To create our website,

we first agreed on a theme and then created pages for our thesis, arguments, and impact. We divided the workload evenly by assigning ourselves individual pages. Although each person was held accountable for two pages of the website, we still collaborated as a team to create a cohesive experience. While writing our content, we added quotes and multimedia to strengthen our arguments and conducted additional research to gain supporting statistics.

Our topic addresses how the FHA was a poor compromise to the Great Depression, and created conflict for future generations of black Americans. Before the New Deal was issued, the Great Depression caused conflict for millions of Americans: people were losing their homes. In response, FDR created the FHA, a New Deal agency, to help America recover from the rising homelessness rates. However, this was a poor compromise because it created more problems than it solved for black Americans. The creation of the FHA segregated communities, denied homes to black Americans, and established a substantial wealth gap between white and black Americans, a conflict that still exists without compromise today.