

Process Paper

To begin our topic search for National History Day (NHD), we started by going through topics as a large NHD group and started forming teams. We became partners because we were interested in learning how to build a website and researching something having a significant impact on our lives and our peers' lives. We chose *Loving v. Virginia* because it fits the theme "Breaking Barriers in History" and it's about how people of different races should be able to marry each other, and one of our group members is interracial.

We began our research using the SEARCH organizer to prompt us on what to research and how to organize our research. We used books and websites and even listened to a recording of the Supreme Court trial. We found the recording and one of the books, *Loving v. Virginia: Interracial Marriage* by Karen Alonso, was most useful in the research process. To widen our research, we looked into other miscegenation court cases throughout history and how the Loving case fits into the Civil Rights Movement. One of our group members went to the Loving's gravesite in Virginia and visited the National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) in Washington, DC. These visits helped develop a deeper understanding of how our topic fits into different parts of history. We added quotes from personal interviews done with interracial couples in the Omaha area, including one of our group member's parents. Prior to the national competition, we submitted our project to the NMAAHC for an e-review and participated in a GoNationals! Workshop offered by our affiliate.

We chose the website category because we thought it would be fun to learn how to build a website. This category was a fit for us because we like working with technology. One of the most challenging parts of creating our entry was learning all of the elements in the website-building platform. Another challenge we faced was working on our website over quarantine. It was difficult because we couldn't communicate 24/7 to discuss who is on which page. We also didn't have access to library books during the quarantine. We met as a group with our teachers through ZOOM to go over revisions. We talked about what each of us were more comfortable doing, and we negotiated our work around that.

Our topic fits the theme, Breaking Barriers in History because Virginia's law against miscegenation was a barrier to Richard and Mildred Loving. In 1959, Richard and Mildred Loving were arrested in Virginia for miscegenation. They went to the U.S. Supreme Court and challenged Virginia's Racial Integrity Law of 1924. After nine years of fighting for the right to marry, they won. It is one of the most remembered legal decisions ever made. Today, other interracial couples can marry and love each other without worrying that a law will create a barrier between them.