

## Process Paper

When we were thinking about topics for this year's theme we immediately thought about the Navajo Code Talkers. Their story is very unique is the solution to creating an unbreakable code for American troops in World War II. It fits into this year's theme: Communication-The Key to Understanding because their Navajo language helped to create a secret communication that was unbreakable to the enemy and responsible for several military victories in the Pacific during World War II. The Code Talkers skills in using their language and communicating it while under fire was immeasurable.

We conducted our research by using our local library, websites, and emailing museums asking for assistance. We found our local library had a couple books like *The Navajo Code Talkers*, but we were unable to get the others we thought would be useful due to interlibrary loan restrictions because of Covid. The websites we found most useful were the Library of Congress, The National WWII Museum and National Archives. The New Mexico museums we found on the internet were emailed with questions, but we never got any response from them. The research information, photos and quotes were recorded in our research journal (google sheets) that our teacher created.

My partner and I decided that our project would best honor the Navajo Code Talkers by creating a website. First, we created a layout in our research journal and sifted through our research information, pictures and quotes to see how it could best fit into the layout best. Once we had our layout then we began the task of creating our website through NHD webcentral. It was a bit easier for us since we had our layout done with our information ready, but it was the adjusting it on the website that took a little time to master. We used fonts that were pleasing to the eye, yet could still be read. We chose color schemes to give the website a unified look and borders around the pictures to make them stand out. We added a different color for quotes to make them 'pop' out to the reader.

Finally we were able to finish our process paper and annotated bibliography and put it on the website. The last touch was to create buttons to navigate throughout the site.

The historical argument centers around a history of governmental regulations for the Native Americans. Reservations, assimilation, schools and forbidden use of their native language are prime examples. Though, years later drafting them into the military and using their communication skills to help defend their country at war.

Navajo soldiers and their unbreakable code played a major role in United States military communications during World War II. Despite a history of cultural discrimination by Americans toward Native Americans including suppressing their native language, it would be the Navajo language that would be the key to secret communication in major World War II battle.