

Although I am only a sophomore in high school, going into the public and teaching people in my community about what I was learning was enjoyable. During world studies this year, the sophomore class has completed four different projects. The projects that were completed were about ancient civilizations, nonviolence, human trafficking, and genealogy. For the first project, the learners studied the ancient civilizations of the world. Students created a website about the ancient civilizations which was presented to the class and the Midland Center for the Arts. The second project was about nonviolence, and the students learned about the different religious conflicts in countries around the world. Also, the learners wrote an essay about nonviolence in schools, communities, and throughout the world on how violence can be prevented. For the third project, the learners researched human trafficking, such as ways to prevent becoming a victim. Students were to make public service announcements and create a presentation that was presented to the people in the community. The last project that the students completed was about genealogy and learning about their personal background and origin. For this project, the students created an online book and presented at the Midland mall. I thought the human trafficking project was the most interesting. I enjoyed the human trafficking project the most because individuals created videos that were broadcasted on the school's

televisions about a real-world problem before going out into the community to raise awareness.

During the human trafficking project, I enjoyed creating two public service announcements. The first public service announcement was created within each group. The purpose of this public service announcement was to raise awareness in the school. Each group created a video that was about two minutes long to show on the televisions. The announcement included information about human trafficking, such as signs to look out for and ways to prevent yourself from becoming a victim. Also, with this public service announcement, each group wrote a script which included the citations for pictures, music, and facts that the group members were going to use in the video. The second public service announcement that the students created were done individually. For the individual announcements, students made a 30-second video to raise awareness about human trafficking. The facilitators looked at each video to determine which had the most powerful message. Two videos were selected to be sent to PBS. I thought that creating the public service announcements were really important for this project because not many people know about human trafficking and that modern-day slavery is a huge problem in the world. Also, by creating the public service announcements, I began to get an understanding about human trafficking. Using technology to raise awareness for the project showed people in my school and the

community that human trafficking is a huge problem in the world that needs to be addressed by everyone.

Throughout the human trafficking project, several people learned about human trafficking. Not only students in my class but also the community became more aware of the different forms of human trafficking, such as forced labor, forced and servile marriage, debt bondage, and the exploitation of children. Personally, I thought that this project was the most appealing because the class had to focus on a real-world problem. For me, knowing that slavery still happens in the world today was unbelievable. One fact that I learned from this project was that human trafficking is a \$32 billion industry; the second largest industry in the world. Also, I learned that there are about 29.8 million slaves throughout the world today. More than half of the victims are in India alone, with approximately 14 million individuals enslaved in a variety of capacities. Also, China enslaves about 2.9 million slaves, and Pakistan has about 2.1 million slaves. The two main types of human trafficking are sexual exploitation and forced labor. Two new people are enslaved every minute. Michigan is ranked fifth in the nation for human trafficking, and in 2010, there was one call from Sanford about human trafficking. Knowing that there was one call from my hometown made me realize that human trafficking can happen anywhere, to anyone. I believe that this project made a lot of people realize that slavery is an actual problem, and not just something that

happened in the past. With these facts, the sophomore class taught multiple people about human trafficking and raised awareness throughout various communities.

For the human trafficking project, the students were able to choose a place outside of the school district to present about human trafficking. In my opinion, I thought that traveling outside of the school district to raise awareness in my community was enjoyable. Students could choose different places throughout the state, such as the Grace A. Dow Library in Midland or even places in the Lansing area. Though the genealogy project was very interesting because the students were able to learn about our family, why they came to America, and how our ancestors affected our lives today, I especially liked doing the genealogy project because family is important to me. Some of the most interesting details that I learned were that six of my great-grandfathers were in the sixteenth regiment militia in New York, one of my many ancestors was a captain in the American Revolution, and my family came to America on the Mayflower in 1620. Although the genealogy project was very interesting, I think that the human trafficking project was more intriguing. By leaving the school and presenting to others throughout the state, the learners taught countless people about human trafficking. Raising awareness about human trafficking made a difference in our community and with the students at Meridian Early College high school.

All in all, the students of the sophomore class have completed four projects throughout the school year to learn history, raise awareness, and make a difference in

the world. The first project was about studying the ancient civilizations of the world and creating a website. The nonviolence project partnered with the Helen M. Casey Foundation and was about learning the different religious conflicts throughout history. Also, the essay that the students wrote about nonviolence in schools, communities, and throughout the world examined nonviolent solutions. The human trafficking project taught the students about modern day slavery and ways to prevent human trafficking in the world. Learners created public service announcements and presented to community members to spread awareness. Genealogy was the final project complete by the sophomores. Students researched their family origin and ancestors. Learners partnered with the Midland genealogy Society, created iBooks, and presented at the Midland Mall. The human trafficking project was the most interesting to me because I thought teaching community members and raising awareness about human trafficking was satisfying. The students at Meridian have worked very hard to raise awareness and make a difference in their communities and throughout the world.