

Process Paper

An inspiration to Americans across the nation, Cesar Chavez strode past racial obstructions and social inequity by establishing one of history's most successful field-based organizations, the United Farm Workers.

As soon as the theme for this year was announced, we immediately began hunting for a topic that was unique, yet relatable. However, the challenge proved to be the incorporation of both the rights and responsibilities. Deciding to start on a local scale, we concentrated our search for issues centering around our county and state. It was through a passing website article featuring the conditions of modern-day farm workers that triggered our interest in agricultural labor rights, eventually leading us to Cesar Chavez. This topic was ideal as it not only encompassed all aspects of the theme, but also remains relevant in current society.

Our research was conducted using a diverse blend of primary and secondary sources. After acquiring background information through multiple online sites, we visited the neighboring library in order to access newspaper archives and databases. These articles were essential as they provided various perspectives in reference to the specific time period. The combination of facts and opinions allowed us to formulate our own conclusions regarding the plight of migrant workers and the legacy of Chavez as well. Through the usage of photographs, political cartoons, and primary documents, we were able to gather a thorough understanding of the topic. Once our website began to take shape, we contacted several professors and activists familiar with Cesar Chavez. One particular interview of celebrated author Miriam Pawel was extremely valuable as her responses about the UFW provided a detailed outlook and allowed us to expand upon the analysis of the theme.

A website seemed to be an appropriate choice as we were able to embed a wide range of multimedia to enhance our project. Using the Weebly editor, we formatted the website with slideshows, image galleries, videos, and audio files, creating a pleasant viewing platform. In addition, the interactive features proved to be highly effective, not only being readily accessible, but also providing a clear, organized layout.

The efforts of Cesar Chavez during the farm workers movement strongly relates to this year's theme. The many UFW protests attracted global attention and paved the way for the California Agricultural Labor Relations Act in 1975 and the Juan de la Cruz Pension Plan, granting formerly denied rights and better-quality health conditions to migrant workers. Consequently, both the government and owners maintained responsibilities to secure the newly provided freedoms and promote worker welfare ensured by means of the law. Yet, while Cesar Chavez remains a motivational figure, instilling courage and optimism with the Mexican American community, the fight for justice is far from complete. As our nation continues to pass future reforms, it is crucial to recall the profound impact Chavez contributed to millions. His role in improving the lives of migrant workers serves as a leading example to others and has upheld the democratic balance between duty and privilege embodied by society.