

Out of The Mud:
The History of Chicago's Historic Raising

Oren Rehm
Junior Division
Individual Exhibit
Exhibit: 494 words
Process Paper: 444 words

I chose this topic because I was very interested in older Chicago history, and this event stuck out to me while our class was watching a brief documentary on the history of Chicago. I then learned that the event affected a large portion of the city and even came very close to where I live. The topic relates to the theme in that there was an issue that urgently needed to be solved for the safety of the city, and many people spent hours debating what the best solution was, and using their diplomatic leverage to eventually come to a viable solution that worked for the betterment of the whole city.

I started to conduct my research with various wikipedia articles, and spread from there following the citations. This was not enough, however, so I searched up various primary articles, many from the Chicago Tribune, and used those. For most of my images I started with a google search, and then followed the links of images that looked interesting and related. Through these methods I gained most of my sources, and any extra information I found through very specific google searches and much browsing of websites like JSTOR.

First I made a rough sketch of all my text and images on a piece of paper. I put down all my text and direct quotes. I then added my titles and in-text citations. Next I re-sized and re-shaped the text boxes to fit my needs on the tri-fold board. I did the same with the images, slowly refining my sketch. I printed out all of these and cut them out. I then pasted all of the to black pieces of paper to provide contrast. I then had the idea to decorate my board with the Chicago flag, which I painted on. Finally I connected everything together with a hot-glue gun.

My historical argument is that the civil debate and resulting outcome of the 1855 raising of Chicago changed/modernized the city, by eliminating major excess points of disease, saving billions of taxpayer dollars, creating a sewage system, and paving the way for the reversal of the Chicago River.

My topic is significant to Chicago History because it created a safe foundation for dry streets and sturdy buildings as well as eliminating many disease outbreaks in the coming years. It also directly correlated to the Reversal of the Chicago River, which was another major step toward a safer Chicago. My topic is also very influential in the history of the United States of America, because it was the first major sewage system implemented, and it became a blueprint for other cities wishing to do the same.