

Process Paper

For my topic, I chose the Delano Grape Strike. I am currently taking AP US History and we learned about American imperialism during the Spanish American War. In class, we debated whether American international expansion was justified through the perspectives of colonized countries, and one perspective was the Philippines. I wanted to learn more about the role of American imperialism in other countries so I began researching this topic. After colonization, Filipino immigrants were considered American citizens and came to the US to work. However, farm owners treated them poorly. As a result, several labor unions formed to rally against farm owners and harsh living conditions. I wondered how these unions shaped agricultural labor and government policies. As I researched, I discovered the Delano Grape Strike and the nonviolent strategies Filipino and Mexican immigrants used to secure rights. My topic relates to the 'Frontier' in several ways. First, the frontier includes the expanding US international frontier through imperialism. Additionally, farmworkers created new frontiers to achieve political rights and a voice in democracy for farmworkers around the US.

To begin my research, I first found secondary and tertiary sources to understand the events of the grape strike. I used sources including books, academic journals from JSTOR, and written work by historians. The most helpful of these was Susan Ferriss' *The Fight in the Fields: Cesar Chavez and the Farmworkers Movement*. After creating a strong foundation of knowledge, I began reading primary sources from Chavez and the United Farm Workers of America. With the availability of such rich primary sources, such as newspapers, photographs, and audio sources of leaders and immigrant workers in the strike, I believed it would be the most effective to create a website to demonstrate the unique conditions of California grape farms and the efforts

of the strikers. Last year, I submitted a paper as my project, but I wanted to explore my interests in computer science and web design.

During the Delano Grape Strike, Filipino and Mexican grape pickers demanded better pay and working conditions. They boycotted grapes and picketed outside grocery stores over the country to accomplish the first union contract for farmworkers. The contract provided higher wages, improved living conditions, and job security. Additionally, the strike brought national attention to the plight of farmworkers and helped to establish the UFW as a prominent voice in the fight for workers' rights.

The Delano Grape Strike is still relevant today, as workers continue to face many of the same challenges they did in 1965. Despite the gains made by Itliong and Chavez during the strike, many farmworkers still work in dangerous conditions for low wages. Furthermore, many farmworkers are undocumented immigrants, which makes them particularly vulnerable to exploitation. The legacy of the Delano Grape Strike serves as a reminder of the power of collective action and the importance of advocating for workers' rights. The ongoing struggle for farmworkers' rights highlights the need for continued advocacy to ensure workers, regardless of identity, are treated with dignity and respect.