A Turning Point in History —
Pearl Harbor Attack and the Japanese Americans behind it

Zetong Bian
Individual Documentary
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When choosing the topic of NHD, I first thought about the aspects I am interested in, culture and identity. As a Chinese, the history of WWII has always been deep in my heart. So I began to associate the relationship between the U.S. and China during World War II. The answer that eventually came to my mind was that the U.S. counterattack on Japan after the Pearl Harbor attack and its help to China largely led to China's eventual victory in WWII. After narrowing the topic down to the Pearl Harbor attack, I started researching various sources and noticed some articles about anti-Japanese sentiment and found them very interesting. So I decided that I wanted to study the concept of identity behind the Pearl Harbor Attack, specifically the anti-Japanese sentiment that came after the Pearl Harbor attack and the effect it had on Japanese Americans.

My research began in the historical context of the Pearl Harbor attack, learning about what was happening in the world and in the United States at that time, especially the relationship between the United States and Japan. After that, I began to focus on the reasons why the Pearl Harbor attack occurred and its general outcomes, including the entry into WWII. Finally, I spent a great deal of time gathering a portion of the results of the Pearl Harbor attack, which was the anti-Japanese sentiment and Japanese internment camps. As I began to work on this project, I continued to add new images and did new research based on the questions that popped up.

As someone who is very interested in editing, photography, and film, I didn't hesitate to choose that I wanted to make an individual documentary. I think that by combining editing, soundtrack, sound, images, and video, the project can be presented in an interesting and diverse way, thus becoming more impressive and conveying the purpose of the documentary better. More importantly, most of my primary sources, such as the footage of the Pearl Harbor attack,

the anti-Japanese propaganda, and the living conditions of Japanese Americans in internment camps, are much better suited to be visualized in a documentary.

The Pearl Harbor attack was an important turning point in history because it led to the entry of the United States into WWII and affected the world situation. Digging deeper into it, we can see that the impact of the Pearl Harbor attack went beyond that. From the perspective of the Japanese Americans, the attack on Pearl Harbor changed their lives forever as they were subjected to countless discrimination and forced to lose their freedom. The anti-Japanese sentiment and Japanese internment camps were one of the first waves of racial discrimination in the U.S. What's more, Japanese Americans like Fred Korematsu who challenged the government and stood up for their own human rights was one of the first shots in the U.S. fight for liberty.

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