

The Reign of James 'Whitey' Bulger: Leader of Organized Crime

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Process Paper

Why we chose this topic: Before we selected our topic, we brainstormed leaders and created a list. After narrowing down our list, we consulted teachers and discussed their opinions. We finally decided James Bulger would make an interesting and well done project. We also concluded that since Whitey is a local figure, we would have access to a variety of sources and people whom we could interview. With a unique topic and extensive sources, we decided to begin researching James ‘Whitey’ Bulger.

How we conducted our research: We began our research by using search engines to find credible sources on Bulger. Throughout our research Shelley Murphy’s name came up often, so we reached out to her and scheduled an interview. From this interview, we gained new information and research. Murphy offered several extra pieces of literature on Bulger which we found, read, and took notes on. These led us to other people, who we reached out to but never heard back from. Additionally, we sent a letter to Bulger himself and received a letter that gave us a new perspective on him. All the while, organizing our research on a google document. After we finished our research, we began to organize and design our website.

How we created and developed our website: Before creating our website, we drew it out on paper to visually interpret how we would organize our research on the website. We then experimented with themes for our website. The final color scheme went along with our topic well; the red symbolized the blood of the murder victims and the darkness symbolized the criminal activity of Whitey. After we had the design of our website established, we added all of our information. Keeping the word count in mind, we found relevant quotes from articles and added them whenever we could. From here, we added pictures and videos to make our website the best possible. Once completed, we went back to look for errors, cut down on words, and ask for the opinions of peers and teachers.

How our project relates to the theme: Our website relates to theme in several ways. A leader does not have to be a hero, in Whitey’s case, he is a leader of organized crime. His influence over gang members and role as the boss of the Winter Hill Gang are small examples supporting the statement that Bulger is a leader. He also rose as a leader when he was offered the job as an FBI informant. Bulger’s legacy is important for several reasons as well. First, he changed FBI informant policies. Not only did Bulger’s legacy impact government, but it has influenced literature, music, and entertainment. James ‘Whitey’ Bulger is a household name, not only in South Boston, but in America. He lives on in prison, remembered for his role in the government and crime.

(494 words)