

C^+

Portfolio

COVER LETTER

I meet the criteria of identifying a problem with a clear thesis statement in my final research paper. This can be found at the end of the second paragraph near the top of the second page. The problem is defined in the first two paragraphs and at the end a thesis statement is made of that problem. The influence of social, historical and cultural texts are met within the final paper as well using specific examples from World War II and the Civil War and facts concerning the Civil Rights Movement. Source material is contained widely throughout the final paper to support the given thesis and the sources are clearly cited. The source material was evaluated by looking at the credentials of the author and being under the assumption that the person did enough research to give logical reasoning behind the argument.

The purpose and focus of my writing is found again in the final paper. Here, the focus is kept on a single subject tying back into a thesis statement. The Autobiography gives a more broadened perspective instead of focusing on one event. The final paper demonstrates the ability to adapt to different audiences by giving sufficient information for the reader. These include defining who and what the Tuskegee Airmen are along with the Civil Rights Movement and defining the P-51 aircraft.

The synthesizing of sources is most profound in the final paper with talking about the different situations of the Tuskegee Airmen versus the Civil Rights Movement. The sources needed to be grouped in such a manner that the subject matter stayed consistent with the topic. I think the final paper demonstrates that quality. Multiple drafts of the final paper are included in this portfolio one of which was taken to the writing center for

looking over. I think that I have proofread and developed extended thinking by getting my paper reviewed by others and incorporating their advice for an overall better paper.

The mechanics of my paper are proficient and citations are presented in a manner that cannot be construed as plagiarism. The only area of weakness might be the organization of my paper. The content is pretty good but the organization might need to be improved. However, writing is a skill that takes time. With that time, my writing will always gradually improve and become better than it was before.

Adam Tarr

January 21, 2005

AUTOBIOGRAPHY

On April 21st, 1986, my parents brought their third child into this world. My mom started having contractions the day of April 20th. At 2:09 a.m. on April 21st, I was delivered, crying as usual. My life began with a mishap right from the beginning. My mother had to have a C-Section to get me out of her womb. Can you say problem child? No, not really. She did have the C-Section but I was never the problem child of the family. That would be my older brother who we joke about "heading into life face first and having the scars to prove it." Also, in this great year I was born, the movie that would shape my dream came out. The movie was "Top Gun." My mom said "it was a big hit. I had a good friend, Julie, who went and paid to see it 15 times in the theater." This movie helped inspire me in my ultimate dream of becoming a pilot. However, I had to make it past childbirth and childhood first.

After beginning in the hospital (and almost giving my mom heart attack because I was insistent about playing with her I.V), I finally traversed to the comfort of my own home in Bellevue, Washington. I grew up just as a normal kid. I was born into a Christian home where God played a central part of my life, as He does to this day; played with the neighbors across the street, helped an old lady mow her lawn, and was home schooled up to the sixth grade.

Then it hit: the greatest new journey of my life. A place where no child ever returns and if they ever do, it's with a load of homework. Yes, my parents sent me to school where my reputation had already preceded me.

I entered *International School* where there existed a total number of 450 students from grades 6-12. Pretty small, eh? My sister entered when she was a ninth grader and my brother entered in eighth. Needless to say, my name was fairly well known. Not as the erudite Travis Aerts, but as "Trevor's little brother." This new change in my life actually brought a fun twist of adventure, along with a broader social life and a little more homework. It was a great experience and the teachers were awesome. However, school was not enough. No, my parents needed me to learn some discipline, along with kicking other people's butts. My parents provided the opportunity for me to join in a martial arts style called *Cuong Nhu*. This brought added friendship combined with self-defense that really impacted my life. The lessons, concepts, and relationships all combined together to give a sense of accomplishment and/or purpose.

All of life seemed to be going pretty well and all was at peace. However, a great storm of sadness and disappointment disrupted this farcical utopia: my parents hit me with the news that we were moving to Spokane.

At the time, my heart crumbled at the thought of leaving all that I knew for 14 years of my life. My dad's job, fused with my mother's ambition for a larger house, concluded the matter that we were moving. Sadness overtook me, but I lived through it. My friends were quite upset as well but they live in my memory and are not forgotten.

The move to Spokane was tough, but in the end, what seemed to be such a tragedy, turned into the greatest four years of my life. I went to Mead High School and

made some very good, true friends and tried some new things such as Football and Track and Field. I was also able to continue training in Cuong Nhu on my own and eventually I received my black belt.

The most fun came the last year of high school. My senior year was wonderful. I tried something that I never would have predicted that I would try: drama. I had never considered doing Drama before and, knowing it was my senior year, I figured that since people are encouraging me to try it, hey, why not? It would be a fun and different way to end my last year. Unbeknownst to me, Drama would add to the host of true of friends I had acquired over four years.

It all began with trying out for William Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream." I journeyed into the unknown, not expecting much and in return, I received the lead part of *Lysander*. It came as such a shock to me and my folks but all very exciting indeed. It was here that I continued Drama all through senior year and it was here that I met the girl still with me today: Kirstin Nelson.

This is where I met my first girlfriend and after a year and two months we are still a couple. I had a few run-ins with some girls in the past but nothing ever really happened -- or my mom saved me from the girl that was dangerous! We met in Drama during the production of *Midsummer* and after hearing that I had not seen "The Emperor's New Groove," she told me I had to see it or I would remain an "uncultured swine" (not really). This launched a series of other movie nights before the one night where I finally got the nerve to ask her out.

People ask me and I have often thought of what would have happened if I never did move to Spokane. I say that life would definitely be different and quite frankly in

hindsight, I'm happy I moved. I acquired great friends and a girlfriend who is all too special. All these experiences in life have formed me, , into who I am. The love and wisdom of both my parents from home, friendships and relationships from school, and lessons from martial arts, all combine together to form the person I am today. Without these, life would surely have been a different story.

Faith and DNA Article Synthesis

Nicolas D. Kristof's article "God and Evolution," in the February 12th New York Times addresses the fact that genetics could scientifically play a role in religious tendencies. A main point Kristof makes in his argument is the generalization that most liberals are secular, while conservatives tend to be Christian. However, according to Ariel Simon, a New York Times reader, "regardless if the gene VMAT2 does or does not code for, it certainly does not determine how we fulfill our spiritual needs" (NY Times 2/16/05 A26).

Kristof later presents a study done in North Carolina of 4,000 churchgoers; this study showed that those who frequently attended church had a 46% lower risk of dying at a young age. David Fellerath of Durham, North Carolina, points out that "a sizable number of North Carolinians do not have health insurance, and many more are inadequately covered" (NY Times 2/16/05 A26). This makes a valid point that the study could be biased, by not considering the economic factors that affect many North Carolinians. Within North Carolina, the younger people could use church as a refuge and rely on the church for safety or security; the study does not take into account those who rely on the churches' goodwill. Overall, many of Kristof's readers questioned his article when he introduced this controversial topic.

As a group, we came to the same conclusion by agreeing with most of the editorials. We believe that having a gene to code for our religion has not been fully studied and should not be put forth as fact. The gene is said to predispose our faiths and ideologies, while many people change religions or adapt to a new one. There are too many factors that play into one's religion, including geographic location, economic status, and family history to say that there is a single gene that can pre-establishes our beliefs and principles.

Adam Tarr

04/29/05

WORLD WAR II AND CIVIL RIGHTS

Ever since the 1700's, and even before then, African-Americans were known as slaves; lower class black working men and women who did not deserve any recognition. The Civil War was fought for the purpose of these men and women to gain freedom. Black's bled and died for that right and after four bloody years, they earned it. Thus, the Civil War spurred a revolution where African-Americans could gain respect. World War II is another example that brought with it many casualties and many changes. The war became the catalyst to many subsequent events that happened in history and opened doors to a whole new world. Many of these changes include women in the workplace, African-Americans in the military, and a pathway of opportunity for all people. One of the most significant changes of World War II was blacks in military. These men went through *many metaphorical* several hurdles to earn the respect they rightly deserved and when the war ended, they got it.

Yet even afterwards, African-Americans suffered many obstacles such as bigotry *yes* and discrimination. They would face these same barriers many times more in history. African-Americans faced these same tribulations in World War II with the Tuskegee Airmen. These problems arose yet again with the Civil Rights Movement. The Tuskegee Airmen created a domino effect for African-Americans fighting for civil rights. The

effect the Tuskegee Airmen had on civil rights is the focus of this paper. This topic of study is important because “this ‘second’ world war shaped the world of yesterday and today; even those born after it ended have had their fates moulded by it. Hence, its interest and relevance for current study” (Dear/Frost, xv). Because of these events of WW II that the Tuskegee Airmen set the stage for the Civil Right Movement of the 1960’s by providing an example to follow.

The Tuskegee Airmen were the first black flyers of World War II. In order for the whites not to bear “the full brunt of battle losses” (Sandler, 9), it was agreed upon in 1940 to allow the admission of black pilots. Most of these pilots came out of Tuskegee Army Airfield, hence the name Tuskegee Airmen. These men would turn the perspective of the whites around by displaying their ability to persevere and show their true merit in combat.

What made the airmen unique was their ability to persevere. Even when the G.I. Bill came into existence and supposedly “‘made America what it is’ by being true to the American Dream, extending middle-class opportunity to hard workers, including second-generation immigrants and African-Americans” (Wilkinson, 1433), the Tuskegee Airmen battled the same discrimination. Although it is true the G.I. Bill aided veterans and middle-class people and “is important in American history not just for what it did but for what so many Americans have lovingly *believed* it did” (Wilkinson, 1434), the G.I. Bill never removed the barrier of segregation for the Tuskegee Airmen. It was the airmen’s ability to prove that African-Americans could capably operate technical machinery such as an airplane and prove they could lead others into battle and victory that made the Tuskegee Airmen separate from the rest. This perseverance destroyed the perspective of “many in the military [holding] the notion that black servicemen were unfit for most

leadership roles and mentally incapable of combat aviation” (Levin, States News Service). Even though their perseverance overcame several obstacles, they had to face two enemies.

The Tuskegee Airmen battled an enemy at home and abroad. One enemy could be clearly seen, the other was invisible. Besides the Axis enemy, the Tuskegee Airmen fought segregation, discrimination and bigotry at home. The white commanding officers of the time put the Tuskegee Airmen through unnecessary trials such as being “restricted, as much as possible, to the most menial positions” (Sandler, xii). The other way of reducing these men was through segregation. Probably the worst and “most oppressive result of racial segregation in the service was the blacks’ awareness that every action was under unremitting scrutiny; their triumphs emblazoned by the press, black and white, out of proportion to any effect on the war effort, and their failures meticulously documented by the Army Air Forces” (Sandler, xiv). Because of the extreme pressure from all angles of the battle field, the Tuskegee Airmen had to be careful of their actions. However, despite the facts of the press and being put to the test every minute of every day, they persevered. Through their trials and tribulations, they defended their honor as men by proving their worth. When the Tuskegee Airmen finally engaged in air combat by defending bombers against the notorious Messerschmitt and left the tedious tasks of ground missions, they showed their valor by not losing a single bomber under their protection. These brave men would soon be known not as the Tuskegee Airmen, but as the feared “Red Tails” because of the red tail on the back of their P-51 Mustang aircraft. Because of the actions of these brave men “it goes without question the Tuskegee Airmen [were] deserving of the Congressional Gold Medal” (Levin, States News Service). The

feat of the Tuskegee Airmen and their ability to prove their worth in overcoming “the enormous challenges of prejudice and discrimination...despite obstacles that threatened failure” (Levin, States News Service), along with receiving recognition provided the perfect example for those of the Civil Rights Movement to follow.

The Civil Rights Movement all began with a woman named Rosa Parks in the late 1950's. In that time, blacks were segregated from whites. The blacks had separate drinking fountains and bathrooms. They also had restrictions on where they could sit on the bus. Rosa Parks decided not to give up her seat to a white man and thus started a revolution. The Civil Rights Movement took hold in the early 1960's and was the demonstration of blacks against the problem of segregation. This event in history broke the barrier between black and white to give true meaning to the words “All men are created equal under God.” It only seems fit that these men and women faced the same impediment as the Tuskegee Airmen did 20 years before.

The people of the Civil Rights Movement fought the same discrimination as the Tuskegee Airmen. Those under the thumb of oppression battled the hurdles of separate facilities, beatings, and discrimination. In this sense, the event played out the same as that of the Tuskegee Airmen only with greater severity. Despite the effort of the G.I. Bill bringing “about more fundamental changes in admission and administrative policies and procedures, as did the Supreme Court desegregation ruling of 1954” (Olson, 610), discrimination lurked in the hearts of individuals seeking to put down African-Americans. Those who waded through the dangers of standing up to oppression found their courage from religion, especially through Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Church is a common place for individuals to come together and work for a common cause. Such is the perspective

of Allison Calhoun-Brown from Georgia State University who states that “churches have traditionally been viewed as places of stability and strength in the African-American community... Whether their leaders repudiated the ‘Curse of Ham,’ embraced the revolutionary religious vision of Nat Turner, or preached the more reserve doctrine that ‘Jesus will fix it after a while,’ black churches have always accepted securing and guaranteeing the freedom of black people as one of their missions” (Calhoun-Brown, 169). One such leader, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., gave the African-American community that mission.

King taught that the weapon of non-violent acts was the best weapon to use against the “separate but equal” perspective. The combined force of King’s oratorical gift for words “[occupying] a central place in American society and awareness during these years” (Sunnemark, 1) and the people’s religion fueled the passion to make the difference. According to social research done in 1967 “African American religion has a general pacifying quality that mitigates militant political action” (Jackson, xvii). This pacifying quality aided in the perseverance of the African-American involved in civil rights. They endured lynching, hanging, and violent acts to gain the freedom and equality they deserved and wanted. Although it took 20 years after the Tuskegee Airmen to finally earn the freedom all African-Americans wanted, equal rights still became a reality. The Tuskegee Airmen started to give these people hope by showing their merit in the military. That act of defiance and perseverance carried through to fuel the fire of the Civil Rights Movement where all African-Americans would be treated as equals instead of only when they were needed the most to fill in a slot. All the African-Americans wanted were recognition, freedom, and equality. These same feelings appeared with the Tuskegee

Airmen. They fought for recognition and even defended the freedom America held so dear. In the same way, African-Americans in general fought for freedom and equality in the Civil Rights Movement. They were able to do so through the leadership of Tuskegee Airmen proving themselves during the war and using religion as “an opiate *and* inspiration for protest” (Jackson, xviii).

The Tuskegee Airmen wanted to serve their country and be seen as men instead of being judged by their appearance. They wished to prove to the world and themselves their capability to be as equally able to perform in militaristic operations as any other person could. The Tuskegee Airmen met the challenge and passed with flying colors by their ability to overcome the difficulties in their path. This same aspect applies to the civilian African-Americans of the Civil Rights Movement. They wished to stop the façade of “separate but equal” and be seen as people that are capable of the same acts as anybody else. To walk into any restaurant and not have designated seating separate from other people. To drink from the same fountain and use the same facilities as any other person could while not having to be criticized or discriminated against. However, taking this point of view of equality to the extreme is never a positive attribute. Looking at the Black Panther party for example taking this idea that whenever a slight comment is made about ethnicity, the word racist appears and a fight breaks out all the while shouting “Black Power!” The extremists manipulate this idea to gain self satisfaction. In no way should issues be taken to the highest level where the slightest comment ensues a massive outrage of bigotry, hatred, and anger. It is frivolous and accomplishes nothing. However, disagreements exist and some may stem from the position of this paper.

There may exist quite a few objections with this argument. One would be that the

Tuskegee Airmen contributed nothing and were merely used as propaganda being classified as failing “to display the aggressiveness and daring for combat that are necessary to do a first class fighting organization” (Sandler, 48). All the glory really went to the white pilots due to the media attention and the only time African Americans received news coverage is when they screwed up. Such an occasion occurred at the time when national newsweekly stated from rumors and hints that the “99th ‘had seen little action, compared to many other units, and seems to have done fairly well; unofficial reports from the Mediterranean Theater of Operations (MTO) have suggested that the top air command was not altogether satisfied with the 99th’s performance” (Sandler, 48). Another objection is the idea of life returning to normal after the war ended and nothing changed afterwards. It was merely a successful “experiment” where exceptional men proved worthy of remembrance but contributed nothing to the spur of the Civil Rights Movement.

While these allegations hold some merit, they do not grasp the connection. There may not have been an obvious connection between the African American pilot of World War II and those involved in civil rights. However, it was more a subtle change taking time to develop. The Tuskegee Airmen overcame discrimination and segregation first in the military. Once they proved the fact of African-Americans being able to perform advanced operations such as flying an airplane, others piggy backed off of the idea and gave birth to civil rights. Discrimination does not need a place or time to occur. No matter what place and time it still exists and is the same in whatever era. Because of the nature of discrimination present in society, many ramifications have and could occur.

One ramification or misperception is this argument being a position for defending

civil rights. While that may possibly be true, it is not the case. This argument shows the connection between two events and how a previous event gave birth and fueled a future event in history. World War II became a catalyst for a series of events and the Civil Rights Movement became one of them. Another ramification includes changes in legislation. The first major change was the case of Brown vs. the Board of Education of 1954 which proved that “separate but equal facilities do deny the equal protection clause of the 16th amendment.” This decision allowed African-Americans the same equality as average Americans which became the first major step toward gaining full equal opportunity. Today, many pieces of legislation such as affirmative action policies along with businesses having equal opportunity combat the nature of discrimination.

Discrimination dates back to the Civil War and beyond. Not only did African-Americans have to fight a physical enemy, they had to fight an invisible one amongst themselves. The Civil War unchained the slaves so they could become “free.” However, they were not fully free until the 1960’s. The Tuskegee Airmen “were instrumental in breaking the segregation barrier” (Levin, State News Service) and became the leading example for the African-Americans of the Civil Rights Movement to follow. The people of the Civil Rights Movement would follow in their wake though 20 years after, to fully gain the right they so desperately worked, bled, and died for: the right for freedom and equality. The battle of discrimination still exists. The battle will continue for as long as people keep it alive. Even with all the policies and regulations to mitigate the effects of discrimination, there will be people who harbor certain animosity towards others who are different. The same battles are fought over again and again only in a different time and place than before. The battle will continue to rage and although some battles may be

over, the war lurks in the darkness until a solution to find peace against the enemy of discrimination is found...if ever.

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REVIEWED AT WRITING CENTER
INFO ON LAST PAGE

Adam Tarr

04/15/05

WORLD WAR II AND CIVIL RIGHTS

MOVE UP, START W/ GENERAL PAST WARS → WWII
TIGHTEN SENTENCES

World War II brought with it many casualties and many changes. The war became the catalyst to many subsequent events that happened in history and opened doors to a whole new world. Many of these changes include working women, African-Americans in the military, and a pathway of opportunity. Ever since the 1700's, and even before then, African-Americans were known as slaves; lower class working men and women who did not deserve any recognition. The Civil War was fought for the purpose of these men and women to gain recognition and to be known as "free." Blacks bled and died for that right and after four bloody years, they earned it. Yet even afterwards, they still suffered many obstacles such as bigotry and discrimination. They would face these same obstacles many times more in history. They faced these same tribulations once again in World War II with the Tuskegee Airmen. They arose yet again with the Civil Rights Movement. The Tuskegee Airmen created a domino effect for the people fighting for civil rights. The effect the Tuskegee Airmen had on civil rights is the focus of this paper. This topic of study is important because "this 'second' world war shaped the world of yesterday and today; even those born after it ended have had their fates moulded by it. Hence, its interest and relevance for current study" (Dear/Frost, xv). It is because

of these events of WW II that the Tuskegee Airmen set the stage for the Civil Right Movement of the 1960's by providing an example to follow.

ADD DESCRIPTIVE

P ABOUT

USKEGEE

AIRMEN

What made the airmen unique was their ability to persevere. Even when the G.I. Bill came into existence and supposedly “made America what it is’ by being true to the American Dream, extending middle-class opportunity to hard workers, including second-generation immigrants and African-Americans” (Wilkinson, JSTOR), the Tuskegee Airmen battled the same discrimination. Although it is true the G.I. Bill aided veterans and middle-class people and “is important in American history not just for what it did but for what so many Americans have lovingly *believed* it did” (Wilkinson, JSTOR), the G.I. Bill never removed the barrier of segregation for the Tuskegee Airmen. It was the airmen’s ability to prove that African Americans could capably operate technical machinery such as an airplane and prove they could lead others into battle and victory that made the Tuskegee Airmen separate from the rest. This perseverance destroyed the perspective of “many in the military [holding] the notion that black servicemen were unfit for most leadership roles and mentally incapable of combat aviation” (Levin, JSTOR). Even though their perseverance overcame several obstacles, they still had to face an enemy.

The Tuskegee Airmen battled an enemy at home and abroad. One enemy could be clearly seen, the other was invisible. Besides the Axis enemy, the Tuskegee Airmen fought segregation, discrimination and bigotry at home. The white commanding officers of the time put the Tuskegee Airmen through unnecessary trials such as being “restricted, as much as possible, to the most menial positions” (Sandler, xii). The other way of reducing these men was through segregation. Probably the worst and “most oppressive

result of racial segregation in the service was the blacks' awareness that every action was under unrelenting scrutiny; their triumphs emblazoned by the press, black and white, out of proportion to any effect on the war effort, and their failures meticulously documented by the Army Air Forces" (Sandler, xiv). Because of the extreme pressure from all angles of the battle field, the Tuskegee Airmen had to be careful of their actions. However, despite the facts of the press and being put to the test every minute of every day, they persevered. Through their trials and tribulations, they defended their honor as men by proving their worth. When the Tuskegee Airmen finally engaged in air combat by defending bombers against the notorious Messerschmitt and left the tedious tasks of ground missions, they showed their valor by not losing a single bomber under their protection. These brave men would soon be known not as the Tuskegee Airmen, but as the feared "Red Tails" because of the red tail on the back of their P-51 Mustang aircraft. Because of the actions of these brave men "it goes without question the Tuskegee Airmen [were] deserving of the Congressional Gold Medal" (Levin, JSTOR). The feat of the Tuskegee Airmen and their ability to prove their worth in overcoming "the enormous challenges of prejudice and discrimination...despite obstacles that threatened failure" (Levin, JSTOR), along with receiving recognition provided the perfect example for those of the Civil Rights Movement to follow. *TRANSITION*

*A DESCRIPTION
OF CIVIL RIGHTS
MOVEMENT*

The people of the Civil Rights Movement fought the same discrimination as the Tuskegee Airmen did before. Those under the thumb of oppression battled the hurdles of separate facilities, beatings, and discrimination. In this sense, the event played out the same as that of the Tuskegee Airmen only on a higher ^{WE SEVENTY?} level. Despite the effort of the G.I. Bill "[bringing] about more fundamental changes in admission and administrative policies

and procedures, as did the Supreme Court desegregation ruling of 1954” (American Quarterly), discrimination lurked in the hearts of individuals seeking to put down African-Americans. Those who waded through the dangers of standing up to oppression found their courage from religion and especially through Martin Luther King, Jr. Church is a common place for individuals to come together and work for a common cause. Such is the perspective of Allison Calhoun-Brown from Georgia State University who states that “churches have traditionally been viewed as places of stability and strength in the African-American community... Whether their leaders repudiated the ‘Curse of Ham,’ embraced the revolutionary religious vision of Nat Turner, or preached the more reserve doctrine that ‘Jesus will fix it after a while,’ black churches have always accepted securing and guaranteeing the freedom of black people as one of their missions” (Calhoun-Brown, JSTOR). One such leader gave the African-American community that mission. That was Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. ^{NEW IP} King taught that the weapon of non-violent acts was the best weapon to use against the “separate but equal” perspective. The combined force of King’s oratorical gift for words “[occupying] a central place in American society and awareness during these years” (Sunnemark, 1) and the people’s religion fueled the passion to make the difference. According to social research done by a man named Marx (1967) “African American religion has a general pacifying quality that mitigates militant political action” (Jackson, xvii). This pacifying quality aided in the perseverance of the African American involved in civil rights. They endured lynching, hanging, and violent acts to gain the freedom and equality they deserved and wanted. Although it took 20 years after the Tuskegee Airmen to finally earn the freedom all African Americans wanted, it still became a reality. The Tuskegee Airmen started to

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EQUAL RIGHTS

give these people hope by showing their merit in the military. That act of defiance and perseverance carried through to fuel the fire of the Civil Rights Movement where all African Americans would be treated as equals instead of only when they were needed the most to fill in a slot. All the African Americans wanted were recognition, freedom, and equality. These same feelings appeared with the Tuskegee Airmen. They fought for recognition and even defended the freedom America held so dear. In the same way, African Americans in general fought for freedom and equality. They were able to do so through the leadership of Tuskegee Airmen proving themselves during the war and using religion as “an opiate *and* inspiration for protest” (Jackson, xviii).

The Tuskegee Airmen wanted to serve their country and be seen as men instead of being judged by their appearance. This same aspect applies to those of the Civil Rights Movement. They wished to stop the façade of “separate but equal” and be seen as people that are capable of the same acts as anybody else. However, taking this point of view to the extreme is never a positive attribute. People today take this idea that whenever a slight comment is made, the word racist appears and a fight breaks out. In no way should issues be taken to the highest level where the slightest comment ensues a massive outrage of bigotry, hatred, and anger.

There may exist quite a few objections with this argument. One would be that the Tuskegee Airmen contributed nothing and were merely used as propaganda. All the glory really went to the white pilots due to the media attention and the only time African Americans received news coverage is when they screwed up. Another objection is the idea of life returning to normal after the war ended. Nothing changed afterwards. It was merely a successful “experiment” where exceptional men proved worthy of remembrance

but contributed nothing to the spur of the Civil Rights Movement. While these allegations hold some merit, they do not grasp the connection. There may not have been an obvious connection between the African American pilot of WW II and those involved in civil rights. However, it was more a ^{SUBTLE} ~~se~~ change taking time to develop. The Tuskegee Airmen overcame discrimination and segregation first. Once they proved the fact of African Americans being able to perform advanced operations such as flying an airplane, others piggy backed off of the idea and gave birth to civil rights. Discrimination does not need a place or time to occur. No matter what place and time it still exists and is the same in whatever era. Because of these changes, many ramifications have and could occur.

One ramification or misperception is this argument being a position for defending civil rights. While that may possibly be true, it is not the case. This argument shows the connection between two events and how a previous event gave birth and fueled a future event in history. World War II became a catalyst for a series of events and the Civil Rights Movement was one of them. Another ramification includes changes in legislation. The first major change was the case of Brown vs. the Board of Education which proved that “separate but equal facilities do deny the equal protection clause of the 16th amendment.” This decision allowed African Americans the same equality as average Americans which became the first major step toward gaining full equal opportunity. Today, many pieces of legislation such as affirmative action policies along with businesses having equal opportunity, combat the nature of discrimination. Although, people hold grudges and harbor bitterness even with such policies.

Discrimination dates back to the Civil War and beyond. Not only did African Americans have to fight a physical enemy, they had to fight an invisible one amongst themselves. The Civil War unchained the slaves so they could become "free." However, they were not fully free until the 1960's. The Tuskegee Airmen "were instrumental in breaking the segregation barrier" (Levin, JSTOR) and became the leading example for others to follow. The people of the Civil Rights Movement would follow in their wake though 20 years after, to fully gain the right they so desperately worked, bled, and died for: the right for freedom and equality. The battle of discrimination still exists to this day. Some people still just will not let go of the past and move on. The battle may be over, but the war still continues to find peace against the enemy of discrimination.

TINA KRAUSS

04/26/05

PROBLEMS? CALL LISA JOHNSON

335-7695

Adam Tarr

04/15/05

RESEARCH PAPER: ROUGH DRAFT

spell out
vague
WW II brought with it many casualties and many changes. It became the catalyst to many subsequent events that happened in history and opened doors to a whole new world. Many of these changes include working women, African-Americans in the military, and a pathway of opportunity. The topic of discussion will be African-Americans in the military. Ever since the 1700's, and even before then, African-Americans were known as slaves; lower class working men and women who did not deserve any recognition. The Civil War was fought for the purpose of these men and women to gain recognition and to be known as "free." They bled and died for that right and after four bloody years, they earned it. Yet even afterwards, they still suffered many obstacles such as bigotry and discrimination. They would face these same obstacles twice more in history. They faced these same tribulations once again in WW II with the Tuskegee Airmen. They arose yet again with the Civil Rights Movement. The Tuskegee Airmen created a domino effect for the people of the civil rights. The effect the Tuskegee Airmen had on civil rights is the focus of this paper. This topic of study is important because "this 'second' world war shaped the world of yesterday and today; even those born after it ended have had their fates moulded by it. Hence, its interest and relevance for current study" (Dear/Frost, xv). It is because of these events of WW II that

meta-textual:
ok for APA format
but not in MLA

vague/ambiguous
since when?

ev?

only here?

passive

the Tuskegee Airmen set the stage for the Civil Right Movement of the 1960's by providing an example to follow. *Why the T.A. & not other leaders, A.P. Randolph, etc? The discrepancy of the GI Bill?*

The Tuskegee Airmen battled an enemy at home and abroad. One enemy could be clearly seen, the other was invisible. Besides the Axis enemy, the Tuskegee Airmen fought segregation, discrimination and bigotry. *at home?* The white commanding officers of the time put the Tuskegee Airmen through unnecessary trials such as being "restricted, as much as possible, to the most menial positions" (Sandler, xii). The other way of reducing these men was through segregation. Probably the worst and "most oppressive result of racial segregation in the service was the blacks' awareness that every action was under unrelenting scrutiny; their triumphs emblazoned by the press, black and white, out of proportion to any effect on the war effort, and their failures meticulously documented by the Army Air Forces" (Sandler, xiv). Because of the extreme pressure from all angles of the battle field, the Tuskegee Airmen had to be careful of their actions. However, despite the facts of the press and being put to the test every minute of every day, they persevered. Through their trials and tribulations, they defended their honor as men by proving their worth. When the Tuskegee Airmen finally engaged in air combat by defending bombers against the notorious Messerschmitt and left the tedious tasks of ground missions, they showed their valor by not losing a single bomber under their protection. *cite* These brave men would soon be known not as the Tuskegee Airmen, but *as* the feared "The Red Tails" because of the red tail on the back of their P-51 Mustang aircraft. The feat of the Tuskegee Airmen and their ability to prove their worth in overcoming "the enormous challenges of prejudice and discrimination...despite obstacles that threatened failure" (Levin), provided the perfect example for those of the Civil Rights Movement to follow. *very good*

^{Who? page}
The people of the Civil Rights Movement fought the same discrimination as the Tuskegee Airmen did before. Although the Civil Rights Movement differed from the Tuskegee Airmen in the fact that it was fought for all African Americans and not just those in the military, the same perspective held true. Those under the thumb of oppression battled the hurdles of separate facilities, beatings, and discrimination. In this sense, the event played out the same as that of the Tuskegee Airmen only on a higher level. Those who waded through the dangers of standing up to oppression found their courage from one individual: Martin Luther King, Jr. King taught that the weapon of non-violent acts was the ^{best} weapon to use against the "separate but equal" perspective.

The combined force of King oratorical gift and the peoples' religion fueled the passion to make the difference. According to social research done by a man named Marx (1967) "African American religion has a general pacifying quality that mitigates militant political action" (Jackson, xvii). This pacifying quality aided in the perseverance of the African American involved in civil rights. They endured lynching, hanging, and violent acts to gain the freedom and equality they deserved and wanted. Although it took ²⁰ years to finally earn the freedom all African Americans wanted, it still became a reality.

The Tuskegee Airmen started to give these people hope by showing their merit in the military. That act of defiance and perseverance carried through to fuel the fire of the Civil Rights Movement where all African Americans would be treated as equals instead of only when they were needed the most to fill in a slot. All the African Americans wanted were recognition, freedom, and equality.

The Tuskegee Airmen wanted to serve their country and be seen as men instead of being judged by their appearance. This same aspect applies to those of the Civil Rights

seems to work agst change?

Q: Didn't blacks distinguish themselves in previous US war? Why were the T.A. unique?

Movement. They wished to stop the façade of “separate but equal” and be seen as people that are capable of the same acts as anybody else. However, taking this point of view to the extreme is never a positive attribute. People today take this idea that whenever a slight comment is made, the work ^{is} racist appears and a fight breaks out. In no way should issues be taken to the highest level where the slightest comment ensues a massive outrage of bigotry, hatred, and anger.

Logical
Connection to
thesis?

The argument of this topic seems more deductive than inductive. Many sources have gathered about a general topic and that topic has been narrowed down to prove a point. The undermining assumptions with this include the facts that the author's of have done thorough research providing a solid argument that is not naïve. Another may include, research done from this writer's part to ensure all facts are truly fact and not fiction and that quality sources were found to produce an effective argument. Because of assumptions made, many objections arise from this argument.

awkward;
focused
purpose?

1. There may exist quite a few objections with this argument. One would be that the Tuskegee Airmen contributed nothing and were merely used as propaganda. All the glory really went to the white pilots due to the media attention and the only time African Americans received news coverage is when they screwed up. Another objection is the idea of life returning to normal after the war ended. Nothing changed afterwards. It was merely a successful “experiment” where exceptional men proved worthy of remembrance but contributed nothing to the spur of the Civil Rights Movement. While these allegations hold some merit, they do not grasp the connection. There may not have been an obvious connection between the African American pilot of WW II and those involved in civil rights. However, it was more a settle change taking time to develop. The

Connection?

Sources?

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confusing
purpose?

One ramification or misperception is this argument being a position for defending civil rights. While that may possibly be true, it is not the case. This argument shows the connection between two events and how a previous event gave birth and fueled a future event in history. World War II became a catalyst for a series of event and the Civil Rights Movement was one of them. Another ramification includes changes in legislation. The first major change was the case of Brown vs. the Board of Education which proved that “separate but equal facilities does deny equal protection clause of the 16th amendment.” This decision allowed African Americans the same equality as average Americans which became the first major step toward gaining full equal opportunity. Today, many pieces of legislation such as affirmative action policies along with businesses having equal opportunity, combat the nature of discrimination. Although, people hold grudges and harbor bitterness even with such policies.

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follow. The people of the Civil Rights Movement would follow in their wake though 20 years after, to fully gain the right they so desperately worked, bled, and died for: the right for freedom and equality. The battle of discrimination still exists to this day. Some people still just will not let go of the past and move on. The battle may be over, but the war still continues to find peace against the enemy of discrimination.

Seems to come apart
midway. Run this through the
writing center for revision feedback
on focus support issues.

RESEARCH PROPOSAL

ENGLISH 101

PROF. ADAM TARR

02/07/08

A. Intro A → events leading to WWII

1. Topic - WWII
2. Question - how key events triggered others in history
3. Worth - major part of history, laying ground work for others to follow
4. Accomplishment - use key examples
 - Tuskegee Airmen
 - Working women
 - ~~Religion?~~→ circle into today's society

Question - how did the events of WWII affect today's society?

Bibliography

My plan for this project is to first have a clear idea what I want to prove. Arianna brought up the fact of controversy, my topic does not have a lot controversy to it compared with abortion. This might be something I need to look into. I'd like to prove that WWII set the stage for other events such as Civil Rights and women ~~workers~~ workers. However, I want to find other aspects the war contributed to and not have this be a human rights paper. More research will be needed in that area and that is what I'll need to do.

PROPOSAL REVISION

How did the Tuskegee Airmen of WWII set the example for African-Americans of the 1960's?

Importance - set the stage for civil rights through military perseverance

Airmen - fought racism
- became best fliers, no losses of bombers
- from experiment to success
- gave example for others to follow 20 years later



Civil Rights Movement
Look at G.I. Bill