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Title: The Integration of Washington Pools, 1960-1961  
Mentor: W. Thomas Mainwaring, Professor of History

Northern cities are often overlooked when discussing Civil Rights and segregation in the United States. Although segregation never made it into law in Washington, Pennsylvania, it was very much alive. A person often experienced segregation and prejudice from the hospital they were born in up to the cemetery they were buried in. The project focuses on the segregation of Washington and the Civil Rights Movement that was led primarily by the NAACP Branch in Washington. My research has uncovered that the closeness of the black community and the churches made communication and organization a huge asset for the movement to desegregate. This presentation will explore one important issue that sparked outrage in the black community in Washington: the segregation of the Washington swimming pools. It will briefly explore the context of Washington and the movement that surrounded the integration of the pools, including prejudice in employment, housing, service, recreation, and more. The issue of segregated pools became a symbol to the black community of what they were fighting for and the price they were willing to pay for equality. The presentation will examine a timeline of integration, the major organizations and people that helped, and the effects of the integration on the community.

I will be projecting a power point for my presentation.