

Journal #2

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Before Washington Heights was chosen by voting, several neighborhoods were suggested. My colleagues and I were okay with selecting the community we decided on. Washington Heights is somewhere I've never been, so I still have a lot to learn. We had a positive attitude when interacting with each other. We did a terrific job assuming the roles that each of us had been given and carrying out our responsibilities. We started by searching for information on the neighborhood on Google. A member of our team who lives in "The Heights" talked about the good and bad things about where he lives with great enthusiasm. Throughout our talk, he wanted to visit his neighborhood to learn more about it. After hearing from us, we discussed it with our professor, who agreed that we might include the trip to the heights in our research. It's a fantastic idea to experience the heights alongside my classmates. We will create a comprehensive project based on the history, social structures, political and societal traits, and demography of Washington Heights.

I have lived in New York for over 30 years, and nothing compares to New York City's inclusivity and variety, which brings together cuisine, music, and culture in one location. Still, it's unsettling to see gentrification take over New York, known for being open to everyone. Washington Heights is one of those places where gentrification has taken over. As I did some research, I found out that Washington Heights became a more Hispanic area after Rafael Trujillo, the dictator of the Dominican Republic was assassinated in the 1960s, which prompted 48,000 Dominicans to immigrate to New York City. At that time, the neighborhood slowly started to undergo gentrification. It is enlightening to have that information since it illustrates how minority communities are targeted. More to come!

