Our group chose the Emancipation Proclamation and the view on slavery because we thought it was one the most significant moments in U.S. history. The Emancipation Proclamation changed the purpose of the Civil War from preserving the Union to abolishing slavery.

First, we looked through a couple of encyclopedia sources such as Wikipedia and took general notes to get the background knowledge and the basic information about the proclamation and the Civil War. By getting this insightful overview, we were able to find a rough starting point for what we were going to do. Then, we looked for scholarly journal and sources we can trust. Ahkil found an excerpt of one of Eric Foner's books titled *The Civil War and the Story of American Freedom.* It explained the relationship between the Civil War and the definition of freedom. He also found other sources on how slavery could be dealt with. Dan was able to find books devoted to the subject of Lincoln and slavery to focus his research on. Eric Foner is a leading historian on Lincoln, as he released a book entitled, *The Fiery Trial: Abraham Lincoln and American Slavery* only last year as well as a book written by Thomas Krannawitter, *Vindicating Lincoln: Defending the Politics of Our Greatest President*. He also looked into letters and speeches on slavery. Ira directed his research towards the legacy of the Emancipation Proclamation and its effects on the nation immediately following it as well as long-term precedents and consequences. He found out that, according to the book *"Freedom: Politics: Between Emancipation and Enfranchisement"*,freedom and the promise of it wasn't always the same thing.

We decided to work in a group so that our end product would be more detailed, informative, and in general a lot better. This also means working with our peers, which could turn out to be fun. We knew we could work together and not fight over the end result or important decisions. We knew we could trust each other, and we expected each other to do their part of the project, and to do it to the best of their ability.

The Emancipation Proclamation was a turning because it changed the Civil War from preserving the Union to abolishing slavery. Not only did it officially do so, but it changed the focus of the war from preserving the union to freeing the slaves, making it a moral issue. While the Declaration of Independence established America as a new state, it was the Emancipation Proclamation that decided what the nation would be. Despite out "unalienable rights", it was this moment, not July 4, 1776, that set this in stone for a multi-cultural nation in their most costly of wars. It became the iconic document in America's most influential war, the war for equal rights for all, setting into motion the most revealing 100 years of the country's history.