

Reflection #1: Initial Thoughts (Due September 16)

You've made your implementation plan and started conducting some research. What are your plans for the semester? What have you learned so far about your topic? What has surprised you? What questions remain?

I plan on connecting with grassroots organizations in Cahokia Heights. I will research the work that the organizations do and how their work benefits the residents of Cahokia Heights, or helps them address the issues they're suffering from. I plan on comparing different grassroots organizations in the area to collect data. I hope to visit some of the grassroots organizations later in the semester to see the work they do firsthand and to gain my own perspective on the organizations. I have grassroots organizations I found on my own, and I have some grassroots organizations recommended by Heartland. The organizations recommended were Empire 13, Centerville Citizens for Change, and regular everyday citizens. Since we already have a connection with Centerville and Arianna specifically, I will use her as a personal contact about grassroots organizations in Centerville. I plan on going to the library with the rest of my research team later in the semester. While at the library, I would like to possibly set up interviews with residents of Centerville who are already in grassroots organizations or have insight about grassroots organizations.

After I narrow down the organizations that I would like to work with, I want to spend the rest of the semester researching the organization, doing visits, and collecting insight on that organization. My group plans on creating a web page showcasing our research that allows viewers to interact with the different exhibits presented on the website. Since some of our

independent projects are hard to connect, exhibits presenting our individual, different topics that pertain to issues in Cahokia Heights will be the best way to effectively showcase our research. The webpage will give viewers a chance to get a glimpse at all our research while also being informative and interactive. This is the best plan for the implementation because everyone has various topics that range from different things, and this would be the best way to include everyone's work. I haven't learned much about the recommended organizations because they don't have much of an online presence. I did learn that Empire 13 did work with the black lives matter movement. There is an activist grassroots organization that was formed to fight for racial, social, economic, and environmental justice reform. Empire 13 focuses more on human rights and black culture. As far as Regular Everyday Citizens and Centreville Citizens For Change, I haven't learned much about them due to their not having a popular online presence. I do hope going to the library and talking to Cahokia Heights residents will give me a chance to learn about these grassroots organizations. So far, this is the plan I have come up with for the rest of the semester. I have a few questions that I can think about when doing the research for this project. What's the purpose of this grassroots organization? How can this organization contribute to our prior research? How can I include each organization on our website?.