Process Paper

My topic was chosen because of the recently deceased Nelson Mandela. Many news articles were written about Nelson Mandela and Apartheid. I was not alive during the time of Apartheid and I wanted to learn about it. What I discovered about the topic was both terrible and interesting. I found that Apartheid resembles the discrimination that was a part of the US History in the 1950's. I did not expect to learn about what happened to the South Africans during Apartheid and I was surprised at the severity of human rights violations which occurred.

I conducted my research by first looking up the term Apartheid to find out what it meant. I, then researched key figures key figures in Apartheid to find out what roles Nelson Mandela and other figures played. After that I researched laws which were passed to remove rights from the majority of the population. I wrote down all the useful facts which I discovered and went over them, deciding that I didn't have enough for this project and went back to researching.

I selected my presentation category, which was a website, because I have a little experience in website creation and I very much enjoyed it. I do not have much experience, but the little I do have was gained by having fun. I feel I will do well in this category because making websites is fun, and that will encourage me to do a better job.

My project relates to rights and responsibilities because the leaders of South Africa at the time were passing laws which made it hard for the non-Caucasians to live happily. Some these laws included: no marriage between different races, the non-Caucasians had to live in ghettos similar to those found in WWII Nazi Germany, and the non-Caucasians were not allowed to pursue an education. During Apartheid, many people suffered due to the color of their skin, and many of the white ruling class thought that the non-Caucasians did not deserve to have happy lives. From many time periods we see that this mindset of discrimination can have disastrous results. For example, we from our own history, that acting out of preference for skin color has many negative consequences. Discrimination leads to pain, suffering, and even death. My project shows how Apartheid from the years of 1948-1994 affected an entire nation.