

My parents are both from Brooklyn, yet I've never been in that borough of New York City. It's considered *the* borough to live in, now that Manhattan is too expensive for anyone under the age of 30. Not that this is new, but Brooklyn wasn't exactly the place where yuppies flocked. Yet within the past few years, the borough managed to take away a New Jersey team and give it a home in the Barclays Center. The city became more gentrified, and then-Mayor Michael Bloomberg was in the process of rezoning and gentrifying one of the biggest shopping centers in New York City: the Fulton Mall. All of this newness was to a new era of gentrification, and it piqued my interest as a 20-year-old from New Jersey. What I didn't know was that this has happened several times within the past 100 years, and the library gave me access to that information.

My working thesis dealt with the tension between race affecting the economy and real estate in Brooklyn from the 1960s to present. The repeating cycle of gentrification displaced people but it also made the area better for residents that could afford to live there, and my research helped me understand that the "evils" of gentrification had a lot more positives on the borough overall, but still presented an ethical dilemma. My favorite part about researching gentrification in Brooklyn was finding magazine and newspaper articles from the '60s and '70s. One issue of *New York* magazine had an article that interviewed a woman who was raised in Brooklyn and had raised her children in Brooklyn, but was forced out of her home so it could be renovated. Her friends and neighbors had already moved away by 1967, and she was the original family left on the block. Stories like hers peppered my paper and gave the reader insight into how displaced families felt by the end of the Lindsay era.

Many first-hand accounts of how gentrification affected Brooklynites were backed by racist federal policies and redlining, which helped segue my research. I was reading books on different neighborhoods in Brooklyn, borrowed from McKeldin Library, just as often as I was reading old issues of the *New York Times* and *New York* magazine that I wouldn't have access to without the library's access. One of my best sources came from a 2012 documentary, *My Brooklyn*. I was happily surprised when I learned that Hornbake Library actually had a copy of the obscure documentary I needed to watch. The documentary focused on the Fulton Mall and historians that grew up in different neighborhoods of Brooklyn and recanted their childhood experiences. Each source led me to the next, and I could have easily written another twenty pages on the topic.

The excessive amount of research made it a bit difficult to write my paper in a focused manner, and Professor Richter was an immense help with this part of the process. He was able to look at my paper analytically and tell me where I needed more or less of something. As a journalism major, I pride myself on writing well and getting very into the material I work with. However, Professor Richter helped me streamline my work and even gave me more resources of novels to read or people to research. He helped me take a step away from the research and look at the bigger picture, and it helped me tremendously. When I was researching and reading sources, Professor Richter suggested that I narrow the number of neighborhoods I discussed. That guideline set the rest of my research when it came to evaluating my sources. I looked for diversity in the types of sources I found as well as diversity within the sources. I wanted to have juxtaposition between the rich and the poor, the whites and the blacks, and the new and the old residents. It was important for me to show every angle of the impact gentrification has on

a city. Another great idea Professor Richter instilled was the incorporation of maps throughout my paper. The maps highlighted the zoning of Brooklyn and gave the reader a better idea of why certain areas were predominantly white or black.

This paper was one of my biggest accomplishments as a student. It was, by far, the longest paper I've ever written. It was also the most heavily researched paper I've worked on. As a journalism and history double major, this paper helped further my knowledge in both fields. I was able to evaluate pieces of journalism from several decades earlier, as well as further my knowledge of American history during the 1960s, especially. In the past, the '60s conjures the civil rights movement, but this paper allowed me to look at race at a local level compared to a national level. Applying a broad human rights problem to one area gave me an in-depth perspective that is useful for the way I want to write pieces of journalism for the future. Now that my paper is complete, I would have mapped out a much better outline for my research, especially when it came to researching specific neighborhoods. I sifted through too many articles that featured broad statements about gentrification; some were completely unrelated to my thesis. The biggest issue I ran into was the unfortunate water break on the fifth floor of McKeldin, which hindered my ability to look at books similar to others I had taken out prior to the floor closing. I heavily relied on resources I could access remotely, and Hornbake doesn't allow resources leaving the library. Overall, I was extremely happy with the resources I had at my fingertips, and it truly made writing a research paper of over 20 pages easier.