

Storming Redoubts 9 and 10:

Two Small Barriers Blocking a Large Victory.

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Individual Website

Student Composed Words: 1200

Process Paper Words: 500

Last year for NHD my project ended up going to nationals. Because of this, my family decided to take a history tour of the East Coast where we would end in Washington D.C., at the national competition. Along the way we stopped at Yorktown National Battlefield. We took a tour around the battlefield and stopped at every major point. One of these stops was the Second Parallel; it was also the point in the parallel with Redoubts 9 and 10. I read the plaques telling the story of the redoubts and found it to be a unique story, but moved on to the next stop without thinking much of it. After nationals, on the train back to Philadelphia for our flight back home, I was considering topics for the 2020 competition and landed on Redoubts 9 and 10. This was after much consideration, but I realized it fit Breaking Barriers perfectly.

I began my research by reviewing what I already knew about the two attacks from visiting Yorktown. From there I filled in the blanks by using secondary sources and then went on to find some letters and journals from Yorktown, and more specifically October 14th. I ended up getting the majority of them from National Archives, including my most helpful source, Washington's Journal from October 1781. This provided almost one fourth of my research and was my most used source. The few I did not find on National Archives were of soldiers who attacked the redoubts; these provided most of my quotes and a good amount of information.

I decided to try making a website because I found the 500 word limit on the exhibits was quite limited compared to the 1200 word limit of a website. When I went to nationals I also found carrying around a large piece of cardboard to be annoying. Overall I found the website category to be the best trade for an exhibit (I did an exhibit for the 2018-2019 competition). After completing my research, I used a graphic organizer to organize my website in a logical way. I then began formatting using different colors to represent different elements of the attacks and

keeping consistent layouts throughout, via copying pages. During all of this I had to figure out NHD Web Central and ended up finding issues at every turn, with some having easier work-arounds than others, but got through all the major problems I found.

As mentioned earlier, I thought Redoubts 9 and 10 were perfect for this year's theme. I thought this because the redoubts were two small barriers that the Americans needed to “break” in order to complete the second parallel that would allow them to easily overrun the British defense line that posed as another barrier. From there they claimed victory at Yorktown, marking the turning point in the Revolutionary War, giving the attacks on the redoubts historical significance. Factor this all together, and Redoubts 9 and 10 come out to be an amazing topic for Breaking Barriers.