

The Emancipation Proclamation: Communicating the First Step  
In A New Era of Freedom

Jillian Mills

Senior Web Design

Word Count: 1175 words

Multimedia: 2:36

Process Paper: 404 words

## Process Paper

I am currently in an American history class, so I wanted to continue my studies with an American history project. I have always been interested in black history and how it impacts the United States as a nation. The Emancipation Proclamation communicated many things when it was written: the freedom of slaves in the seceded states, the new purpose of the war, and a sense of urgency and motivation in the South. The proclamation communicated a new incentive for both sides: abolishing slavery in the North and total independence in the South.

I used both the internet and literature from my local library to find sources for my project. I found newspaper articles and images to be very helpful, and I really enjoyed the photos I found on the Library of Congress website. I tried to find sources from both the North and the South sides of the issue to understand both sides of the argument.

For my website, I used the NHDWebCentral program for all aspects of the project. I chose a color scheme and theme that I thought best suited my topic, and manipulated the texts and photos in an aesthetically pleasing and informative way. I created multiple pages and sections that displayed my information in a logical way. For my sources, I formulated an annotated bibliography of everything I learned from my research, and put both the bibliography and this process paper on my website.

In the midst of a brutal Civil War, the Emancipation Proclamation communicated freedom for slaves in Confederate states and a new motivation to fight in the Union. This proclamation strengthened the morale of the Union and changed the very character of the war, accelerating it into a desperate fight for freedom, both for the slaves and for the Confederacy against what they perceived to be a tyrannical Union.

The Emancipation Proclamation was a major turning point in the American Civil War, leading to the eventual triumph of the Union and the restoration of the United States. The freeing of southern slaves directly impacted the lives and rights of African-Americans and paved the way for the Civil Rights Movement in the 20th century. Although racial prejudice is still alive today, the Emancipation Proclamation was one of the first political documents that worked towards its erasure, and also influenced the ratification of the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments, which increased the rights of African-Americans and people of color.