

## **Britton Hansen**

Teacher Patricia Gardner School Albuquerque High School | Albuquerque, New Mexico

**Issue** The Innocence Project, and wrongful convictions throughout American history, impacts the country's society as a whole. It's evident in culture, whether it's based on religion, race, or gender. Minorities, though, are the ones most often put into jail, and it is the corrupt nature of the American justice system that created this distinct gap between races, even in an age of Civic Equality.

**Project Description** I researched for a year on the various methods that the Innocence Project uses to get convicted people out of jail. I interviewed various people involved with the foundation, as well, such as the New Mexico Innocence Project's Gordon Rahn. My goal was to have people realize how important a matter it truly is, and how it impacts us all.

**Project Outcome** I raised the awareness of my community, from my classmates, to teachers, to judges at the regional and state level of National History Day.

**Request** You can help by focusing on immigration reforms and changing national policy on restitution. Improving courtroom systems could create a less corrupt pattern. Work would improve if public defendants were trained more, and given larger salaries. And then, of course, supporting foundations such as the Innocence Project is the biggest step you could take.

**Project Link** <a href="https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1tHMcngFx\_afqO8Lio9KlYk2Y49eLNR6pKlf0sZWJlvg/edit#slide=id.p">https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1tHMcngFx\_afqO8Lio9KlYk2Y49eLNR6pKlf0sZWJlvg/edit#slide=id.p</a>