A+ Student Outline

How did Japanese Americans show resistance in Japanese Internment Camps?

1. Introduction:

* Background information
  + Why
    - Anti immigrant
    - Pearl harbor bombing
    - accused of being spies, and sabotaging the US
    - executive order 9066
  + How
    - Made JA move out of homes
    - Had to abandon everything and move to camps
  + Where
    - Internment camps
    - 10 camps
  + Who
    - Anyone of Japanese descent
    - Even American citizens
    - 120,000 JA
* Academic Debate
  + Most historians agree no reason for camps
  + Most historians focus on difficulties for Japanese-Americans
  + Need for more histories on how Japanese-Americans resisted successfully
* My THESIS
  + Japanese Americans proved themselves the true Americans through fighting creatively and successfuly for equal rights in legal, political, and cultural ressitance

II. 1st  Support: LEGAL RESISTANCE

* Fred Korematsu
  + Dec 18 1944
  + Man who went against JA laws
  + Transformed himself to be white, got eye surgery
  + Changed name to Clyde Sarah
  + Ended up getting caught and arrested
  + Bail was paid but he wasn’t released
  + Supreme court case where the constitutionality of executive order 9066 was considered
* Executive order 9066
  + gave the military authority to exclude Japanese citizens from critical areas
* Result
  + Court ruled against him
  + The need to protect against espionage outweighed Korematsu’s rights
* Reopening the case
  + found that government’s legal team had destroyed evidence form gov intelligence agencies reporting that JA posed no threat to the US
  + November 10 1983, cleared his name
  + Justice RObert Jackson called the exclusion act a legalization of racism

III. 2nd Support: Creative Cultural Resistance

* Art (create own societies in camps)
  + To show the americans that they still had hope
  + That they wouldn’t give up
  + Often pictured beautiful landscapes of where they wanted to be
  + Made jewelry out of other materials
  + Made own furniture by stealing wood from other camps
  + Made moonshine
  + Planted gardens (defiant gardens)
    - Temporary illusion of home
* Baseball league
  + People thought Major League Baseball was going to be shut down
  + however Franklin Roosevelt wrote a “green light letter” that baseball would offer a chance for recreation and for taking their minds off work
  + Created leagues to distract them from the reality of imprisonment
  + leagues formed in 7 camps
  + George Omachi “Without baseball, camp life would have been miserable” (a former prisoner)
  + Asserted their identity as Americans and located them with American culture
  + Takeo Suo: “putting on a baseball uniform was like wearing the american flag” (internee at Manzanar)
* Schools
  + Established in crystal city camp
  + 3 schools
    - an American school run by INS
    - a German school run by German internees
    - a Japanese school run by Japanese internees
    - lacked running water, lavatories
  + Minidoka relocation center
    - adopted a definition of democracy
    - voted to see what classes should be in the curriculum
    - educational program was left to the JAs
    - Students were heavily involved in community life
  + Manzanar Relocation Center
    - Wanted to promote a better understanding of american ideals + loyalty
    - wanted to prevent students from being too caught up in their own suffering
    - based curriculum on the California one
    - emphasized the greatness of America

IV. 3rd Support: Political and Military Resistance

* Protest
  + JA refused to fight for the US in WW2
  + “no nos” Draft resisters
  + Most served jail time for resistance
  + Had to swear allegiance to US and no allegiance to the emperor of Japan
  + A racially segregated group of JA in one unit
  + Camp topaz succeeded in slowing down the registration process
  + Registration crisis of 1943
  + Tule Lake camp refused registration
* Sante Fe Riot
  + 12 correctional officers stabbed
  + 33 inmates died
  + 90 inmates injured
  + majority of inmates escaped
  + lasted for 36 hours
* Poor conditions
  + infested with rats and cockroaches
  + No dentist, dentist, psychologist
  + diseases were rampant

V. Conclusion

* Restate thesis and 3 supports
* Own thoughts on JA internment camps
  + Talk about fascism??
  + Commendable for the JA’s to stand up for their constitutional rights
  + US became fascist to overcome WW2
  + Legalized racism
* Aftermath
  + Found unconstitutional
  + 20,000 should be paid to each internment camp survivor
  + Civil Liberties Act
* Importance?
  + Proof that JA are not threats, act more like true US citizens