

## **2016 Research Week Proposal Instructions and Template** **Posters and Presentations**

### **Proposal Sample**

**Title** – Nisei: The Making of the 100<sup>th</sup> and 442<sup>nd</sup>, the Italian Campaign, and the Question of Justice

**Program of Study** – History/ Military History

**Presentation Type** – **Choose one of the following:** PowerPoint

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**Category** – **Choose one of the following:** Textual.

**Abstract example:** This paper examines the establishment and achievements of the Japanese-American soldiers during World War II. The 100<sup>th</sup> and 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Teams, unique in their heritage as first generation, American-born Japanese, were often referred to as Nisei. The Nisei soldiers made up both the 100th Division and the 442nd RCT, two segregated outfits designated for front line duty. Both the 100th Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team fought in the Italian Campaign from 1943 until 1944. During training the Nisei soldiers did not find acceptance and support for their desire to serve their country. They were frequently discriminated against, to the point of being used to train dogs to “find japs” after a commanding officer expressed that he thought “they smelled different. In Early 1943 Franklin D. Roosevelt decided to revise his position on allowing the Nisei to fight in the war. A call went out in Hawaii, where Japanese did not live in concentration camps, for 1,500 able bodied men. 10,000 men showed up to register for the newly established 442<sup>nd</sup> segregated combat unit. This study highlights the establishments of the two units and their vital contributions to the Allied forces in the Italian Campaign. The 100th and later the 442nd played a major part of the assault on Monte Cassino in

crossing of the Rapido River. This mission showed many in the army command that the 100th Battalion and the up and coming 442nd were up for the task and capable of completing a mission no matter the cost. They also showed their fellow Caucasian soldiers that, “they have proven themselves better Americans than some fighting that were not of Japanese descent.” This mission showed many in the army command that the 100th Battalion and the up and coming 442nd were up for the task and capable of completing a mission no matter the cost. They also showed their fellow Caucasian soldiers that, “they have proven themselves better Americans than some fighting that were not of Japanese descent.” One of the issues the 5th Army was facing in the stalemate at Anzio was the lack of German intelligence. There had been little traditional combat resulting in a lack of POWs to interrogate. Lieutenant Young Oak Kim knew the solution. Kim requested to Colonel Singles for Kim and a partner have permission to go out and bring back a POW. Kim argued a three-fold explanation for the Army’s failure to capture a POW. Kim’s successful capture of a German POW attributed to the Allied advancement. Yet, when the 100th found themselves within seven miles of Rome on June 5th, 1944 they were ordered to halt and never actually were allowed into Rome. The men of the 100<sup>th</sup> sat on the side of the road and watched as units who had been living at Anzio for ten weeks race into Rome. For the men of the 100th the decision to hold the 100th from entering the city brought anger and confusion. This act coupled with the flagrant discrimination shown to the Japanese-American troops calls into question the lack of justice and honor shown to the men who so bravely gave all for a country who mistrusted and in some cases outright hated them.

**Christian worldview integration:** As a Christian the discrimination shown to the men of the 100<sup>th</sup> and 442<sup>nd</sup> has confused and hurt me for a number of years. I was raised to respect “the greatest generation.” This generation of young men who left home to fight for freedom, how

showed great bravery in the most dire situations, and who fought for the freedom of all. So upon hearing the honors and hatefulness displayed to young Japanese- American soldiers I desired to examine primary sources to fully analyze the treatment of these soldiers and read firsthand accounts how they preserved through such persecution. My approach to research comes mainly through the wisdom of 11:3, “the integrity of the upright guides them, but the crookedness of the treacherous destroys them.” When researching I approach primary or secondary sources with integrity, not looking for the answers I want but searching for the truth. This truth comes in sharing the statements given by Japanese- American soldiers telling of the hurt and anger they carried long after the war due to their treatment by other men of “the greatest generation.” However, my research goes further than the world of academics. As a follower of Christ I am charged to love. I wanted to investigate in hopes of finding stories of love being shown to the soldiers. However, this was not what my work revealed. It is my hope for the work I did to reveal the importance of respecting, loving, and honoring those who give any of their lives to the dedication of their country. I want to inspire others to see not the color of skin or heritage but the integrity and heart of their fellow men, epically in situations where lives are on the line and a group of individuals goes above and beyond the call of duty.