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In-Class Reflection #3

While writing my mid-term project, I came across a few issues, but I feel that I was able to find an alternative direction to what I had first anticipated. Originally, I found it quite difficult to find sources that demonstrated varying opinions regarding the Henricus Historical Park. The living museum part of the park is something that is more recent, I believe the late-1990s to early-2000s, but it is also a smaller museum that may not have attracted much attention. Additionally, I feel that the site is often overshadowed by Jamestown in its significant, so more people focus on that site. Also, that the Henricus site is in a more remote location, and therefore isn’t that well-recognized except for locals who use the trails or students whose teachers may have taken them on field trips there like I had done in elementary school.

The majority of the articles I found regarding the Henricus Historical Park dealt with tourism, and the Chesterfield Power Station nearby. Articles regarding the latter topic mostly talked about its effect on the environment, namely, Dutch Gap and the waterways. Henricus was mentioned in the articles that I used, since the trail around Dutch Gap encircles the location and they both are a part of the same county systems. Because of this inclusion of Henricus Historical Park, since it is a part of the same environment as Dutch Gap that is affected by the station, I felt it was appropriate to discuss the hazards that the station may pose, primarily on health hazards, how it may affect the tourism rates, and the problems that could occur in the future, like the possibility of the park being bought out by the station.

Throughout my writing, I tried to adapt the information to challenge readers in what they already know or thought what really happened during this colonial period. Going into this project, I found there was a lot of information that I had always been told were the accomplishments of Jamestown, or at least, assumed happened at Jamestown. One example, I did not realize that Henricus is where Pocahontas was held during her year in captivity. I really wanted to share these small tidbits to portray history correctly and properly commemorate Henricus in my entry.

Additionally, I wanted to spur the reader into becoming interested in the site. I feel I started by drawing people in, hinting at Henricus and stated that it was important in my introduction. Then, I went into detail about the history of Henricus as a small summary of what had occurred there to get people interested. I then wanted to propose the problem, even if it may seem small or not significant right now, I feel that pointing out the potential, then people will think about it and either support the park if the problem does happen, or think about similar site near them. I finished up with what I hope is a statement to challenge people to become interested in the site, think about the hazards that modern society has on historical sites, and become aware of ways to avoid them in the future.

By having this conversation with people either by visiting, teaching about the site, or just becoming better educated themselves, I wish to gain support for the site, up the interest in this specific part in history, and point out to locals that the site is there and to be proud of it. This, in turn, would hopefully help the park get more attention, more funds, and grow into a more recognized and commemorated site like Jamestown.