

From Conflict to Compromise:

How a Negotiator from Maine

Brought Peace to Northern Ireland

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Group Documentary

Process Paper: 500 words

Annotated Bibliography

Primary Sources

Interviews

"Interview with George J. Mitchell." Personal interview. 13 Sept. 2017.

This interview was by far our most helpful source. It shaped our research and our topic. Being in Mitchell's presence helped us to see why people would trust him. After choosing our topic in June, we spent the summer months researching this topic, and Mitchell himself. We discovered that Mitchell left for D.C. from his home on Mount Desert Island at the end of summer, so we contacted him beforehand. This was the first formal, recorded in-person interview for both of us, so we learned a lot about this type of interview, and the technology to record it. George Mitchell spent forty-five minutes (11 questions) with us explaining many topics, focusing on his role, skills, personal experiences, and characteristics. He explained everything in great detail, and because this interview was at the beginning of our research, it really helped us to have a good foundation. This helped to shape our research and topic to be more Mitchell-oriented. We used three clips of this interview in our documentary.

"Interview with Keith Craig." Personal Interview. 31 March 2018.

This was our second and only recorded interview of Keith Craig. This was helpful because Craig, a assistant artillery platoon commander, was stationed in Northern Ireland for six months. He explained to us the depth and military involvement of

the conflict in Northern Ireland. He also explained how he cannot go into a bar wearing his uniform or let other people know that he was in the British Army because of the resentment that still lingers. He explained how excesses of violence on both sides keep resentment and divisions. We used a clip of this in our documentary.

“Interview with Lawrence McManus.” Personal Interview. 11 March, 2018.

This was our final interview. Lawrence McManus is Matthew’s mother’s close college friend’s uncle. He lives in Pettigo, a small town on the border of Ireland and Northern Ireland. The town is actually split in two, one half in the Republic of Ireland and one half in Northern Ireland. McManus was a former member of Sinn Fein, and quit Sinn Fein in 1999. He was a member for two decades, including a politician during the peace process and negotiations. As a Catholic and a member of Sinn Fein, he wanted a united Ireland. He actually quit Sinn Fein because he thought the agreement favored the other side, and he wanted to hold out for a united Ireland. He also had some insight into the agreement itself and Mitchell’s role. He described how Mitchell came over from America and did a very good job in getting the negotiators to compromise, and how he was very intelligent. He also described how the agreement was more of a bandaid, and not stitches or a long term solution to the conflict. He thought that Northern Ireland was like a fire, and that it was put out by the Good Friday Agreement, but that the ashes are still smoldering, and if anything is thrown on it that it will catch fire again. He argued that Brexit was one of the things that could reignite the fire, and thought that there would be a united Ireland before Brexit. This interview helped us to see why some people opposed the agreement, and how peace is still being threatened.

“Interview with Rita Yavinsky.” Personal Interview. 12 December 2017.

This interview was recorded at her house. Her uncle had been a member of the

Provisional Irish Republican Army, the largest and most famous terrorist group. She had been to Ireland and Northern Ireland before. Her father and her father's friends (Catholic) had stolen bullets from British soldiers. The soldiers then plotted to kill them. Her dad's bike broke down, and he stayed behind to fix it. Then, the soldiers killed his friends who had gone ahead. This was helpful because it helped us to see the depth of conflict in Northern Ireland.