

Loving V Virginia 1967

The case that changed history

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Individual Documentary

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I chose Loving V. Virginia because I have always taken a big interest in cases that paved the way for the future like this case. The Lovings were one of the forgotten heroes that changed history.

I decided to do a documentary because I want a future in film production, and this is the best way to start. I want to create a piece where the truth and facts are being told, and spread the word on the Lovings case. Not many are aware of this case because it is said to be a “forgotten case.”

To create the documentary, I first did my research that took just over 2 months. After that I tried to get a living source from the 1960’s to get a statement or an interview. I did get in contact with the Lovings daughter, Peggy Loving.

She couldn’t really give much information considering she was a small child at the time. I did find archived marriage certificates and original court files. After 2 hours of looking at the ceiling thinking, “what I am gonna do next,” I thought “why not make my own interviews but modern day?” After months of getting couples submissions and editing, everything finally came together!

This project relates to the “Conflict & Compromise” theme because Mildred and Richard’s conflict was the Anti-Miscegenation Law preventing blacks and whites from marrying in the state of Virginia.

The compromise was a little different than others I would think. The case initially had a failed compromise then a reversal of the failed compromise. The state of Virginia was going to charge Mildred and Richard Loving with a felony and 5+ years in prison, but the judge gave them an alternative of leaving Virginia for 25 years and not return together as a married couple. The Loving’s left and moved to Washington D.C. because they had nowhere else to go.

Mildred wrote to Robert F. Kennedy about what happened in Virginia. He sent her to Bernard S. Cohen, a lawyer, who took their case to the Supreme court in Washington D.C.

The law was proven unconstitutional because it violated the 14th amendment stating, “All persons born or naturalized in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.”

The compromise of the Loving case of 1967 was that the Loving's were allowed to move back home to Virginia while staying legally married. The law was taken down in the 17 states including Indiana and North Carolina.