

Closing Reflections: What Newark Means to Me

After learning about the history of the great city of Newark, what does Newark mean to you?
What are your hopes and dreams for the city? What stood out to you about the history of this city?
What do you want others to know about Newark and its citizens?

“Throughout the time in class and in the curriculum we have learned so much about Newark and its history and through our time of learning what Newark means to me is a city that has progressed from tougher times in the past and what the city is now is way more improved than what happened in the past the Rebellion, the election for mayor, the racism and many of the things that cause the to down spiral and caused the city to crumble at the time but through the tough and power acts to the people that didn't want this city to crumble and the act to worsen they stood up a made a change to have the city the way it is today. What stood out to me was the Rebellion and how it affected Newark it such a way a terrible but the people of Newark prevented this stood and made the city a better place. There may still be things that need to be fixed about our present Newark but the past was way worse and people of Newark working hard to make sure that the Rebellion doesn't happen again. This city has gone through it hardship just like any person or city has maybe even worse but the past tells me that of past problem can be fixed through effort and hard work. And I believe that Newark can be an even better place than what it is today and what it was in the past.”

- **Burhan Dawson**

“To me, Newark means a city of power and a city that is mixed with many cultures (Hispanic, Portuguese, black) and it's a welcoming city because of this. I have lived in Newark ever since I moved to the United States and it's mix of culture made it feel a little like my home country and I quickly adjusted to this place. I hope that the city will continue to improve without the need of violent acts. However, these violent acts show that the residents of Newark are willing to stand up for what's wrong and are determined to fix whatever is currently wrong with the city. What stood out to me was how Black businesses were marked as, “Soul brother” so that they wouldn't be destroyed. Another thing that stood out to me, was that the residents of Newark were able to change the scales of political power in just 5 days. I want everyone in Newark to learn about the history of Newark because it's the place they're living in since I think it's fair for everyone to know the history of the place they're living in. I also hoped that people learn about the good and bad that has happened in Newark.”

- **Anonymous student**

“What Newark means to me? That question always stuck to me. Newark is a city of culture and quality. This is an activist type city and not just because it's populated. Newark activists have been making statements and changes to improve this city. As an community, we should all be finding ways to make this

city better. My hopes and dreams is that people treat Newark like a rare diamond jewel. I want this city to stay in tact with the world and change it. Being born in Newark is one thing, but being able to make a change and statement is another. After learning about Newark's history, it made me love my own city even more. My dream is to hopefully make a change in this city and impact the poor lives of people who live in it. I want to be the heart and soul that restrains Newark back into it's lovely place."

- **MaLe' Slater**

"Before learning about the history of Newark I used to encounter a lot of people that would say "Newark is a bad place to live, it's very dangerous" and I wouldn't know how to respond however, after going through this course I understand that the city of Newark went through alot. Something that stood out to me was that the people of Newark were able to make a change in a time when that was nearly impossible. They were able to meet some of their requirements and they prevented a lot of industrial change from happening. My hope for the city of Newark is that we have more community centers that exceed government standards. We need a place that children go and feel safe and their able to interact with people their age and do productive things. I also hope that parents start teaching their children their history because even though it happened in the past it still affects them. I would like people to know that the citizens of Newark are a strong people and that they are very resilient."

- **Raziel Riddick**

"To me, Newark is a place I call home. Newark is a city where people can feel welcome and evolve together. It's a place where people came to start a better live. It's where people united as one. Newark is where you can feel equal to one another. My hopes for the city is to reduce the killing rate and poverty level. What stood out to me about the history of Newark is the start of businesses owned by African Americans. African Americans became entrepreneurs. They started businesses like barbershops, bakeries, and created their own bank. Newark is city where talent and ambition is visible."

- **Jameerah Graves**

"When I hear Newark now I think about a city that was full of black people that wanted change and would not stop until change was in their hands. I hope the cities infrastructure gets better as I live around a few abandoned buildings. The city is also not very clean, when you come into Newark it's not the brightest look; it just looks dirty and out of control most of the time. What stood out to me was the fact that the national guard came to keep the city under control, things got a little out of hand but the people still came out on top. What I want people to know about Newark is that it's not just a random city, Newark is a city with a lot of history with people who fought until they had control of their city."

- **David Saint-Louis**

"As a person the was born and raised in Newark. I feel that people should have been teaching us the history of Newark. This is my home, this is the place that made me the person I am today, This is the place I grew up in, the place I made friends, this is the place that I have memories of the bad and the good, this place made it all. This place means so much to me and the fact that I'm learning about its history now

baffles me. Learning about the struggle that happened in 1967 in Newark shows me that we as a community have the power to change, the power to take charge, and the power to care for one another. My hopes and dreams for this city are more change. Every time I meet someone that wasn't from Jersey they would always say, "I thought this place would just be gunshots and people living in abandoned buildings." I want people's perspectives towards Newark to change. Every time someone hears our city's name they think that our education system is trash and that most people from Newark aren't really the "brightest" people in the world BUT that not turn. I believe that people of Newark can put a stop to those negative comments and fight for more change."

- **Immanuel Burgess**

"What does Newark mean to me. Newark for outsiders tend to be described with the words ghetto, dangerous, or considered the hood. But many great things has come from Newark. I feel like Newark is a place where there is unseen talent. Many great things has come from Newark like barber shops, bakeries, beauticians, a bank (The People's Finance Corporation), taverns, trucking firms, and funeral business. Black Churches were also coming around and that's when gospel music started to flourish. The different races and cultures in newark also livened up the city. Newark is very inclusive and very talented but my hopes for the city is people start wanting to showcase the talent and use their talent to help the city. I also hope that the education system in Newark continues to improve because school is not just for learning things from a text book it's supposed to help children learn things about life. But although Newark may have its lows it has many highs to make up for it."

- **Rosebud Pleasant**

"After learning about the history of Newark, to me Newark means power and it represents unity within its people. Following the unit of the Newark Rebellion, it's amazing to see how far Newark has come and how far its people have come. My hopes and dreams for the city include, the citizens of Newark finally learning about their history and using that to better our future. I also hope that we can come together as a community once again to improve the conditions of our home. Something that stood out to me about the history of this city was how many different ethnic groups have been here and their experiences in Newark. For example, The Italians took the dirtiest jobs in Newark, eager to prove themselves. They turned to clothing manufacturing, jewelry making, and leather tanning, but most did the menial work of cleaning or railroad tracks. Also, the Italians, like the Irish, built social and political organizations and gradually pushed themselves into the political mainstream. This stood out to me because it was refreshing to learn about this city and the people who have resided here and brought so many amazing things that makes up the history of Newark. I want people to know that Newark is much more than it seems. Newark, it embodies the social, economic, and political power Black people are fighting for. It represents self-determination for Black people and and it represents the fact that we are going to continue to fight until we see a change."

- **Shariah Marsden**

"After learning about the history of Newark, I think that Newark is powerful and its history and the events or actions of the past really embrace that. It's really cool to see how far Newark has come and how by each generation it just keeps on advancing. My hopes for the city are that this community continues to unite and come together as one. One thing you can't take away from Newark is that we will always rise together as one, no matter your race no matter your wealth we will all stand up. A lot of various people may say that the city of Newark is a very bad, dirty place but there's so much more to that, the history of this city shows so much more than that. For example, The Italians took the worst jobs in Newark trying to "prove" themselves. They did stuff like leather tanning and making jewelry etc, also the riots is another example people from the outside thought Newark were rioting in bad intent but that's not true we knew the reason why they were rioting, it was for the good of the city of Newark and standing up for what's right and what's wrong. I want people to know that behind all the bad and the dirt there is a good will and a good intent so never judge before you know."

- **Anonymous student**

"After learning about the history of Newark, to me Newark is like a home and have a good warm welcome for those who wasn't born or lived in Newark. I wasn't born in Newark and I feel like I was welcomed by a lot of people once I moved, it was kind of hard adjusting to a new environment, but I got comfortable very quickly. I hope Newark changes their ways of violence, I feel like the stuff that caused violence could've been avoided. I know everyone isn't perfect but I also hope that everyone can keep it clean. One part of the history of Newark that stood out to me was that, people used their talent and art to comfort them, and get them to feel like they are at home by putting different legends and/or people that had a great impact to Newark or to them by painting or spray painting certain areas of Newark."

- **Nylah Holman**

"In this years' class, I have learn a lot about the development of Newark, such as the struggles kids had to go through to work in the factories at young ages and the Newark rebellions and how different influential people reacted to the crisis, without these past experiences and mistakes Newark would have never gotten better and grown from those mistake to becoming the Newark we know today. In Newark people had to experience things for anything to move on and this cause the politicians to rethink what they are doing in the gov. that is causing these issues. We also learned about the things that made up Newark like the education and the work that people put in to make society what it is today. We also learned about murals and the meaning of some of them this taught us that some of the unknown art that we see can sometimes mean something to other people and we should look out for these types of art. Also I learned that some immigrants have to forget their country and their origin to be able to fit in. Even so they still have a hard time fitting in and this causes them to lose their ancestral beliefs. Even when they now have the freedom and are starting to fit in more they still don't. When they go back to their country they now realize how much they have forgotten. Many are still searching for their past while they are trying so much to forget their past. And that Power means that someone or something have a sort of force or ability above another. Someone that can have a lot of power is the president, the mayor of a town or city, or basically any politician has some power over someone else. The power a mayor has is only limited to the town or city they are in charge of. Many of the people in Newark were immigrants coming from different

places. Another thing I learned is about the way that more More African Americans moved to Newark, making more people to believe in black power, this means that the blacks rule Newark not the whites, It stood out to me that a lot of whites moved out of Newark. Amiri Baraka was a poet from Newark. He supported Cultural nationalism, Cultural nationalism is when a nation is defined by its culture like how whenever you think of India you think of spices. He sought for community empowerment, the Black United. He wanted empowerment in his community and the police to stop power abuse, the police brutality, cultural explosion. Mayor Ras Baraka, in the poem, says that they want the voices and culture of the people to be heard.”

- **Osasere Iyamu**

“Newark is more than just a city. Residents for many immigrant families. Where I was born and grew up. Where many slaves migrated to and turned it into their home. To me Newark is my home. Where I feel welcome made many friends. No matter how bad it may seem thats not how it really is. Everyone is for each other. You can find someone for everyone. No matter the good or bad newark will forever be my home. Its a great community and I hope the best for it. Newark has so many things for the world to see. And I hope the world gets to see it. Like so many of our others. There is so many things I didnt know about Newark. Like how it was a white city. I would have never expected or believed it if some one had told me that. Probably because I dont really see that many white people here. Another suprising thing about Newark is that the governor sent the national guard to harm peaceful protestors its kind it what we see today. And its sad because its like history is reaptng itself. It took the governor seeing innocent being killed for them to finally tell the gurda to stop. Its really sad and annoying that stuff like this still goes on.”

- **Afolashade Adenya**

“Newark is where me and my family live, it's where I grew up. So with out a doubt I want Newark to thrive and I know we can get there. For example, how come all the better paying jobs are outside of Newark? Why must we travel outside our great city just to find a job that pays well? We need to help the people who live here find better job. Because in the 1920s and 30s 300 blacks went into business. “These businesses included restaurants; taverns; bakeries; barber shops; beauticians; funeral businesses; and trucking firms. Black people started a bank (The People’s Finance Corporation) and several professional associations (for funeral directors, beauticians, and barbers).” “RiseUp North - Digital Archive of the History of Newark” This only proof that we had black own business in the city of Newark. They build it up from the ground, and it's no doubt that they struggled. WE could be the city is is know for supporting black owned business. WE can do it again we can thrive. We people come to Newark we want them to be here for Newark, not just something to stay so they can go New york.”

- **Cavay Pitt**

“I was born and raised here, and I've seen it grow and degrade. Newark is a place where everyone is accepted and feels as though they belong. Nobody would feel left out since there are so many people who are supportive and caring. Individuals in Newark band together whenever others are treated unfairly, but many people are willing to fight for equality and a variety of other rights. My goals and goals for Newark

include the people always fighting for one another's rights. To me, Newark is a city that has gone through a lot in order to get what they have worked for their entire life. They were determined and confident, and they would not give up until it happened for them. After learning about many facets of Newark that I was previously unaware of. I obtained a thorough grasp of the community in which I grew up. My current aspirations and goals for the city are that it improves generally. I say this because there are numerous concerns that must be addressed before this city can be considered a success. The insurrection was one of the things I learnt about Newark's history that piqued my interest. This struck out to me because there was rioting, various acts of violence, property destruction, and overall violence going on at the time. A significant number of individuals were killed or injured. Everything started when a man called John Smith was pulled over, hauled out of his automobile, and severely beaten. There were racial disparities in police and arrests, unequal resources were provided, and opportunities were not provided to all. To be honest, I want other citizens to understand that this world discriminates against people based on their culture, skin color, language, and so on. It is critical that you are aware of what is going on around you, and that you do not consider life to be a joke. Don't allow people to normalize it and make it appear acceptable because it is not. It gets to the point where people's lives are taken as a result, which is incredibly awful to say, but it is what happens. Newark will always hold a place in my heart and will always be a part of who I am today."

- **Crismery Guzman**

"Newark means so much to me. Newark was the city I was born in and was raised. Newark is a city where people have dreams they want to accomplish, adults and children who are very much athletic, students who want to become something professional with their career. Newark is a city of power. The reason why Newark is a city of power because for the past few years Newark went through the worst and haven't stopped from being the bright city and challenging city. I say challenging because in the city of Newark there are things such as, racism, shoot outs, killing, Death, and etc... but with all the challenging thing it doesn't stop it from being bright and moving forward. Also in the city of Newark many people here work together as family and struggle as a family build up as a family and continue as a family."

- **Johanna Ruiz**