

2.

I think Homestead should not be remembered as just a one-dimensional, oversimplified strike between workers and Carnegie, but as a complex event in history that affected many. From this trial, I learned two things. Firstly, what happened at Homestead and the loss of life that it caused was a terrible thing. It is not to the fault of one individual person or party, but of an entire system. Secondly, history is something that cannot be only read about in books. While that is all well and good, sometimes to get the full picture, you have to really analyze the information and put yourself in the shoes of the people that actually lived what you are learning about.

4.

Reenacting the trial makes the event both more human and more complicated. Actually playing the witnesses forced me to not just learn about the people involved on a historical level, but also on a more real, personal level to accurately portray how I think that they would respond to questions. This deep dive into the witness I played caused me to think of him as a real person with thoughts, feelings, and morals instead of just some guy we read about in history.

The reenactment also complicated Homestead for two reasons. One, it showed how there were not any clear villains or heroes. Both sides made mistakes, and both sides had good qualities to them. It was clear that the way Frick and Carnegie were treating their workers in the mill was wrong because of the long hours, dangerous working conditions, and meager pay. However, Carnegie gave millions away to charity and became famous for

his acts of philanthropy. Frick, however ruthless to his workers he may be, was a loving father and husband who valued his family deeply. The workers had many people's sympathy because of the way they were treated, and I agree that they should not have been taken advantage of like that. They are not completely innocent, though. After their victory over the Pinkertons, they, along with the townspeople, beat the defenseless men as they were marched through the town. This undermines the sort of victim look they had going for them, complicating Homestead even more. Secondly, reenacting the trial as opposed to reading about it also allowed me to find more information and understand it better. The more information on a subject you know, the more complicated it will get because you understand it on a deeper level.