Gandhi’s Newspaper
Maria Mikhail, Suzanna Au Yueng, Jacqueline Fink
First Year Seminar 07 | GEN 140 | Professor Jean Mills

Research Questions
How did Gandhi’s newspaper have an effect on non-violence?

Background Information
- Gandhi was born on October 2, 1869, in Porbandar, India.
  - His full name was Mahatma Gandhi, and he was well-known for his civil disobedience.
  - He studied law and later fought for the rights of Indians.
  - Gandhi became a leader of India’s movement for peace.
  - He organized boycotts and non-violent events against the British. He even went to jail for trying to make peace, but that was committing crimes in the British eyes.
  - Gandhi was killed, in 1948, because he was considered a threat.

Introduction
- The purpose of the research is to see the effect of Gandhi’s newspaper on society during 1933, when it was first published.
- Gandhi believed that “Publicity is our best and perhaps the only weapon of defense.”
  - He published the Indian Opinion because he wanted publicity to arouse public opinion among the Indians in South Africa.
  - His goal was to help poor farmers and laborers protest oppressive taxation and discrimination within the community.
  - He wanted to prevent and end poverty, liberate women, and end discrimination.
  - He kept the language of the newspaper simple and wrote the content so it would appeal to the people.
  - The paper was able to make the Indians realize their rights and privileges.

Findings
- Newspaper articles were written in a very easy and understandable manner. This made it more convenient for the readers because not everyone was educated.
  - He participated in many newspapers besides the Indian Opinion.
  - His first issue was in The Vegetarian.
  - He contributed many articles to the magazine about customs and festivals.
  - He was the editor of an unregistered newspaper called the Satyagrahi, as well as Young India, Navajivan, and Harijan.
  - The number of subscribers for Navajivan was much greater than the other newspapers he wrote for.
  - He was also a mentor for other editors and journalists. He shared his beliefs with other writers.

What Does Harijan Mean?
- Gandhi named his newspaper Harijan meaning “child of God.”
  - He believed no one should be called an untouchable.

Conclusion
- Gandhi is well known for his hard work through civil disobedience strategies.
  - The importance of his newspaper was for Indians in South Africa to learn about the events happening in India.
  - Gandhi was a mentor for other writers to encourage them to pursue peace movements.
  - When you go to the statue of Gandhi in Union Square you see him actually how he was, with no exaggerations.
  - On the stone is his name, dates of birth and death, and his quote that really reflects what type of mind-set he had.
  - “Non-Violence is the greatest force at the disposal of Mankind. It is the supreme law. By it alone can mankind be saved.” (Gandhi, 1869-1948)

Resources
- We visited the Gandhi statue in Union Square. This showed the effect Gandhi had on our society. The statue was created as a method to honor and remember his contributions to society. It was first introduced in the park in 1986, about 38 years after his death.
  - http://progressive.org/mp_pal12208
  - http://www.biography.com/people/mahatma-gandhi-9305898