

My research paper is on early education in New France. My question is “Does religion play a major role in formal education in New France?”. I have been working hard to obtain strong sources to help me make my argument concrete and strong. Through my research I believe that religion is the foundation of all formal education in the New France. I have carefully chosen my sources to help me drive my point home. I have also done some background research, so my point of view wouldn't be one sided to Marie de L’Carnation and the Jesuits. I have learnt that religion is the driving reason behind starting formalized education in New France. I am still very fascinated by the complete trust in faith from the Jesuits and Marie de L’Carnation. I believe that this is a major part of Canadian history, as it had been the base of formalized education here today. It has evolved and changed to be more inclusive, and not one-sided, or based on religion. The religious formal education in New France helped to shape what formal education is today. Religion is a controversial topic in schools today. There are still Catholic schools, or schools that teach religion. Although most schools don't teach religion in today's day, I find it very interesting that it lead to the first reports of formal education in New France.

- 1) I do not have very much background in history. The last history class I took was social studies 11 two years ago. I really enjoy this class we are going into depth about a lot of topics that I have briefly learnt about. A few weeks ago we started learning about Marie de L’Carnation and I was fascinated by Marie and the mission of the Jesuits. I am hoping to pursue a bachelor's of education degree and becoming a school teacher. I have taught as past jobs and it is a passion of mine. I wanted to focus on education in New France to see how education was incorporated to the new colony. I found a book full of primary documents written by Marie de L’Carnation. I find her a very interesting person to study. Religion is a major part of her motivation and it influences the education system in New France. I find Marie's life very fascinating and it ties in to education well.
- 2) I was having some troubles picking a topic and finding primary sources. I knew I wanted to look at something to do with education in New France. I went and saw Brenda at the library and we spent two hours searching for any primary document we could find. Luckily we found a book “*Word From New France: The Selected Letters of Marie De L’Carnation (1)*”, which was full of letters written by Marie herself. This related to education perfectly, we scanned the books to find letters explaining the education system. I found early Canada Online a very helpful source

as it shows the evolution of education in the colonies. The source titled “Marguerite Bourgeoys and Montreal, 1640-1655 (3)” goes into depth about the life of the Jesuits. I also found “Two Myths in New France Education (4)” which goes into more depth in the education system in New France. I spent hours finding my sources. I found it tricky to find reliable sources relating to my topic for dates in pre-confederation Canada. I find these sources interesting and full of valuable information. These documents all go into depth explain education and most documents relate back to the Jesuits and Marie which helps support my argument.

- 3) I didn't really know what to expect when I started my research. I knew formalized education must have been put into place by Europeans, as residential schools was put in place by the “white man”. I was hoping to find some research on the first nations people and their ways of education their people, but with lack of documented history I was unable to find sources on these topics. My assumption was correct as the Jesuits started formalized education New France. My research is showing me what lead the Jesuits lead to implement education in New France. They felt it was a sin to not expose people to the teachings of god, so they started to educate the children of the new colony. I wasn't really sure what else to assume as I have no background on this topic. I was very curious to learn about education as it is not predominantly talked about or taught in classrooms. I wanted to see where our current education system in Canada came from, I want to look into the roots of the system. My sources have broaden my understanding on my topic.
- 4) Religion and faith is a dominant and reoccurring theme in my research. Most of the motivation to start educating others comes from the religious roots of the European nuns and Jesuits. I did not realize what a major role religion played in the education in New France. People's beliefs were so strong that it was the center of their lives, and education. They felt so strongly about their faith that it was incorporated into this “new world”. I have a lot of respect for the Europeans being so dedicated to their faith, but there were some problems with that. Their mind sets were so one sided that they were not willing or open to learn about first nations way of life. They tried to convert multiple people and resorted to violent means to convert them. Although they did it with good intentions it is a major scar in Canada's history. I still want to learn about how first nations educated their people before the Europeans. I wonder if they had any formalized education or if everything was taught through life experience.
- 5) Next time I will see Brenda a little sooner. This project has helped to enhance my research skills, this will be a very beneficial tool for my future. I will probably choose a slightly broader topic to

get even more research to help argue my topic with stronger evidence. I think that having a bit of background on your topic would be helpful so you aren't starting with zero background knowledge, as I needed to do some research for that too. If I redid this paper I would focus on a more broad topic, but I am enjoying this challenge. I have only found one primary document I was hoping to find more. I am going to try and locate more but I would choose a topic with more primary documents I find them very interesting to interpret.

Bibliography:

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