

Morse High School Library  
*Think.Care. Act.*

Outline- Graphic Organizer

Name: Mrs. Lee

Date: May 11, 2015

**INTRODUCTION**

**Hook:**

**“ ‘At some time, every Negro in the armed services asks himself what he is getting for the supreme sacrifice he is called upon to make.’ - Pittsburgh Courier, November 9, 1944” (Sheinkin)**

**Background Information:**

**On July 17, 1944, a massive explosion rocked the Port Chicago naval ammunition base, located on San Francisco Bay, killing 320 servicemen and injuring hundreds more. Surviving black soldiers were taken to a nearby base and ordered to return to the exact same work (Price). More than 200 of the men refused unless the unsafe and unfair conditions at the docks were addressed. The sailors felt they were standing up for justice. The Navy viewed their actions as mutiny and threatened that anyone not immediately returning to work would face the firing squad. Ultimately, most of the black sailors agreed to return to their duties; however, fifty did not (“Remembering the Sacrifices at Port Chicago”).**

**Thesis (This is your research question turned into a statement.):**

**The Port Chicago 50 Disaster changed the racial segregation policy in the United States military.**