

## Undergraduate Research Symposium May 20, 2011 Mary Gates Hall

### Online Proceedings

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#### POSTER SESSION 2

Commons East, Easel 16

2:30 PM to 3:30 PM

**The Controversy of the Tea Party in Contemporary American Culture in Light of Dissent Theories of Noam Chomsky and Howard Zinn**

*Anne-Cecile (Lorelai) Germain, Senior, English*

*Mentor: Laurie George, English*

There is a misunderstanding with the word patriotism which Howard Zinn explained during an interview when he said: "Dissent is the highest form of patriotism." Despite numerous revolts in our history as mentioned and explained by Howard Zinn in *A People History of the United States*, dissent is a very long process that often results in a two steps forward one step back doctrine. I will explore through recent news articles and magazines such as Time and Newsweek, as well as scholarly journals and Chomsky and Zinn's works, the factors which prevent the American people who take action, by dissenting, to make much change in the status quo. I am going to focus on the controversy of the Tea Party as the example of an attempt to analyze the role of the American citizen in the political arena.