

Exclusion, Inclusion: Competing for Change with the Special Olympics

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Junior Division

Group Website

Student Composed Words: 1,198

Process Paper: 394 words

Process Paper

Topic Selection

While searching for a topic, we decided that we should do an event since more people are usually involved. One of the things that stood out and was one of the more popular topics we came across while searching was the Americans with Disability Act. That sparked our interest, so we started searching for things related to the rights of people with disabilities. Finally, we came across our now topic of the Special Olympics.

Research Process

We wanted to do our research in chronological order so we could understand as we went. Keeping it in chronological order ensured that we wouldn't get dates mixed, wouldn't be confused about what events lead to, and have a clear understanding of what events occurred in our topic. Research was recorded on notecards and color-coded so we could easily differentiate primary from secondary sources. During our research process, we were able to find beneficial primary sources as well as set up an interview with two people who work with the Special Olympics in our district. Each of our sources are extremely valuable to our project.

Category and Project Creation

We selected the website category because it is, in our opinion, the best for working in a group. It is easy for both of us to access and we don't have to be together to work on it. To start creating our project we had to first get familiar with the website builder since it is new. We played around with it for a while and watched the web seminar. After learning how to use the site editor we picked a color scheme and a template. We decided on black, white, and gold along

with a splash template. We also made sure to keep things in an organized format such as info, quotes, and supporting pictures next to each other.

Theme Connection

The Special Olympics fits the theme of breaking barriers in history since this event was the first major sports event for people with intellectual disabilities. Eunice Kennedy Shriver shattered the barrier of neglected human rights for special needs people by creating the Special Olympics, an annual sports event for the Special Olympics. This brought disabled people out of the shadows of institutions and into the spotlight of a national competition. The Special Olympics broke social barriers at the time by allowing the public to see that the intellectually disabled weren't incapable of basic human activities.