

***Florence Nightingale: Her Reforms to Nursing, Military Medicine, and Preventive Medicine.***

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Website category

Student Composed Words: 1,181

Process Paper Words: 498

When I heard about the topic idea of Revolutions, Reforms, and Reactions for National History Day, I did not have a complete idea of what to do at the time. It wasn't until later in the day that I was learning about Florence Nightingale in my Healthcare class. In our textbooks, there was information on how she was a groundbreaking change for nursing and healthcare, but there were few explanations of what she actually did to become so well known and popular. My curiosity got the better of me, and I learned that she helped in the Crimean War and helped shape hospitals to have better protocols and infection precaution codes. Due to this information and how I learned that she made many reforms in the healthcare system, I believed that she would be a perfect topic to use and give a better commentary on who she was as a person, her ideals, and what she did to shape the ways of healthcare and nursing.

In my research, my main priority was finding sources that would be able to properly explain what large impacts she made instead of many small ones. The three main topics that I decided to use were military medicine (or military healthcare), preventive medicine, and nursing. Through these different ideas, I could show that she did have a large reform and significant impact on the entire healthcare system as a whole, and gave a new reputation to nursing. This entire project was created to show that Florence Nightingale did make changes to the way that we have our health structure, and if she had not made these changes, there could have been a chance that nobody else would have gotten the same popularity as her and ensured these reforms were made.

When creating this project, I decided to do a website because Florence Nightingale created documents and data to be able to show her ideas across the globe, and websites are used to effectively show information across the globe today. During Nightingale's time, her methods of showing her criticisms were in the most modern way they could be for her time, and today, websites and online technology are the most advanced way to be able to show information for the time period. This is my sort of homage to Florence Nightingale in trying to be able to make sure that her knowledge is easily accessible, just like how she would fight to make her ideas more accessible and attainable in her time.

This year's National History Day theme was Revolutions, Reforms, and Reactions, and Florence Nightingale's changes to healthcare strongly resonate with this theme. Nightingale fought and advocated for her reforms in healthcare so that there would be a safer and healthier community for patients and staff in hospitals. Nightingale cared for military medicine and the health of soldiers while also managing a nursing school to be able to educate nurses on her ideas of how to successfully care for patients in healthcare facilities.