

Process Paper

How I Choose My Topic:

Last fall, we were told during class to brainstorm all possible topics for National History Day and choose the one we thought fit with the theme. I wrote down all the topics I could think of. A few of the topics I wrote down were The Nazi Occupation, The Great Depression, and the Watergate Scandal. However, out of all the topics, I was torn between the Berlin Wall, Racial Discrimination, and Women's Rights. I know that the three that I picked were most likely the most common ones to pick out of all topics, however the thought that women didn't even have the rights that a woman deserves. I decided to pick Women's Rights to further understand why women didn't have the same rights as men in the first place. I did a little digging on the history of women's rights and decided to start at first wave feminism, the wave for women's voting rights, the 19th Amendment.

How I Conducted my Research:

I began by looking online about the 19th Amendment and women's voting rights. I found quite a few sources. I read several articles and websites for information about the 19th Amendment and women's rights. I then went to my school library to grab a few books about the 19th Amendment and Susan B. Anthony. I wrote and sent information request letters to museums and other reliable places that we had found. Some of my teachers that I had asked about the 19th amendment mentioned that their grandparents were part of the movement for women's rights.

How I Selected my Presentation Category and Created my Project:

I really enjoy playing with technology. Last year, I was going to do a documentary but found myself to be much more efficient with websites. I even liked doing websites a lot better. I have plenty of experience with websites and had created a website in the past two years for History Day. This year was a bit of a challenge due to the fact that I was using a completely new and unfamiliar website builder. After overcoming this small obstacle I believe that a website would be the best way to show my project.

How my project relates to the NHD Theme:

The 19th Amendment relates to the theme because the women of that time period were not treated equally to men. Women didn't even have the right to vote. After Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton lead the campaign for women's rights, it sparked a fire. Even after the death of both women, America continued to burn from that spark and the women's suffrage movement took over the nation until 1920 when the 19th Amendment became official. The women of America broke the barriers placed onto them by old and outdated standards. The success of the passing of the 19th Amendment inspired many other social movements and women still celebrate this accomplishment today.

Word Count: 489