

Process Paper

My topic is the Stock Market Crash of 1929 and the New Deal, and how the New Deal increased financial regulation that resulted in a more secure economy. I began to be interested in this topic when I did some research on FDR in third grade for an essay. My interest increased when I started to research topics for my Oregon History Day project. When I deepened my research, I found out so many interesting and complicated facts about both the crash and the New Deal and Great Depression, I knew this was the topic I wanted to research.

When I started researching, I read websites and books to get familiar with the time period and what Americans' lives were like then. I then visited the Oregon Historical Society Museum to gain more insight on my topic. I also visited the Hood River County Library and got several books on the New Deal and the Stock Market Crash of 1929. I researched archival documents from Jstor and the Library of Congress, which broadened my research and gave me different perspectives on the Great Depression. I listened to various interviews from Americans who survived the Depression, such as Dorothy Womble and Delbert Glordan, which both broadened my research and furthered my interest.

I originally planned to do a documentary, but decided to do a website because I wanted to add extra multimedia. I read the contest rule book and listened to walk-throughs so I could know how to use the NHDWebCentral website builder. I used the Library of Congress, Jstor and Wikimedia Commons to find more primary images to include in my website, and found historical letters and journals to strengthen my thesis.

My historical argument is that the Great Crash and Depression resulted in the New Deal, which improved financial regulations for the entire country, ameliorating future stock market crashes. I originally planned to have a different thesis, but after further research and support, I changed it because I realized it wasn't as strong or solid.

The topic of the Great Depression and The New Deal relates to the Oregon History Day theme of "Turning Points in History," because the financial regulations created by the New Deal changed the way our financial and economic systems function today, and improved the regulation on the stock market. Even though they devastated the economy, the Stock Market Crash of 1929 and the Great Depression ultimately resulted in the New Deal, which lessened the effects of past crashes and improved regulation for stock markets all over the country.