

# CHICAGO METRO HISTORY FAIR 2020 SUMMARY STATEMENT FORM

Attach an annotated bibliography (AB) that is divided between primary and secondary sources.  
Submit two copies of the SS and the AB at the competition. *Please type.*

Student name(s) <i>Kyle Alpe</i>				
Title <i>American Hearing Impaired Hockey Association, Slashing the Sound Barrier</i>				
<i>Check if applicable (and respond to question 3)</i>				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This project uses the 2020 National History Day theme, "Breaking Barriers in History."				
Project Category:				
<input type="checkbox"/> Exhibit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Website	<input type="checkbox"/> Paper	<input type="checkbox"/> Documentary	<input type="checkbox"/> Performance
Student composed Word-Count:	Student composed Word-Count: <i>1,445</i>	Total word count (Excluding citations):	Time:	Time:

## 1. THESIS STATEMENT

Present the project's argument or interpretation in two sentences. If you are using the NHD theme, you might want to make it evident in your thesis statement.

*The American Hearing Impaired Hockey Association (AHIHA) has made a dramatic impact on the game of hockey and the lives of hard of hearing hockey players. This organization's impact extends beyond breaking barriers only on the ice. AHIHA allows hockey players with hearing disabilities to play the game they love, while also improving their self-confidence in school, work, and other social settings.*

## 2. SUMMARY OF PROJECT

Briefly explain your project and its conclusion. Include: How and why did change happen and what was the impact? Why is it historically significant? What historical meaning or importance can we learn from your findings?

*The American Hearing Impaired Hockey Association (AHIHA) has changed thousands of individuals' lives! AHIHA provides deaf or hard of hearing children with opportunities to improve their self-confidence on and off the ice. They also have the chance to form friendships with other kids who are hearing impaired, as well as, build memories. Some players who have attended AHIHA have gone on to play college hockey and participate in the Deaflympics. AHIHA's camps have been incredibly successful in breaking down barriers and making a difference for individuals living with hearing loss. Thanks to AHIHA, thousands of deaf and hard of hearing hockey players have the opportunity to learn about themselves and the game of hockey.*

*This information is historically significant because during the 1970's, individuals with hearing disabilities were being excluded and treated unfairly. Some of these children were losing confidence and starting to fail academically and withdraw socially. AHIHA creates opportunities and provides resources for hearing impaired hockey players and their families.*

*My project takes a historical look at AHIHA and shows how the organization has successfully worked to knock down barriers for hockey players with hearing issues for over 46 years.*

### **3. Required for projects using the National History Day theme only.**

Explain how this project integrates the NHD theme “Breaking Barriers in History” into its argument.

*This project relates to the NHD theme in several ways. AHIHA has broken the sound barrier by providing hard of hearing kids the opportunity to play hockey in an environment that fits their needs. Social barriers have also been broken by creating a place where individuals with hearing loss can fit in and feel part of a community. AHIHA helps hearing impaired hockey players increase their self-confidence so they can have successful futures. The theme this year is breaking barriers and AHIHA continues to do just that.*

### **4. PROCESS**

A. What historical question did you start off with—and how did it change once you began doing your research?

*I was originally interested in Willie O’ree, the first African American hockey player. I was having difficulty finding enough information and I found out about AHIHA. As a hockey player, I was interested in learning how the game could be played if you couldn’t hear well. I decided to narrow my focus and research a single organization dedicated to working with hockey players with hearing loss. I chose AHIHA because of Chicago Blackhawk’s legend, Stan Mikita’s involvement.*

B. What kinds of sources did you use as evidence to develop your argument (for example, letters, photographs, government documents, interviews, etc.)?

*I used newspapers, videos, quotes, pictures, and personal interviews.*

C. Select one piece of evidence that you used and explain how it influenced your argument.

*I chose an article from Sports Illustrated, “Breaking the Silence”. This article had a ton of good information about AHIHA. It also had lots of quotes from Stan Mikita and Irv Tiahnybik. The article painted a good picture of how AHIHA progressed from a simple idea to help a local Chicago boy, to a world-renowned school for hockey players with hearing difficulties. Braking barriers often begin with a simple idea.*

D. List libraries (other than school), museums, and other institutions that you visited to do your research.

*Brookfield Public Library*

*Online Research including Chicago Tribune Archives online*

*I interviewed Kevin Delaney, President AHIHA*

*I also contacted various members of AHIHA by email. These people helped me with archived photos and articles from the AHIHA private collection.*