

Tiananmen Square Protests of 1989

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Individual Website

Process Paper: 500 words

For the topic of Breaking Barriers for National History Day, I chose the event of Tiananmen Square Protests in 1989. This came to mind because I was aware about censorship in China and wanted to understand more about the topic. Although I knew a little bit already, I never truly realized the severity of censorship and how important it is to the learning of other people. I talked about this with my older sister and she suggested that I should talk about the Tiananmen Square Incident of 1989. When I first started reading about it, the articles I read made me think about how fortunate we are to be able to have access to learn about history and its importance today.

I conducted my research by using the databases from the Lake Washington School District research page. I looked over most of the sites and searched my topic to get a general overview of Tiananmen Square. Initially, the sources I found were short, so I had difficulty learning the smaller details leading to the protests and eventually, the aftermath of the protests. I watched the documentary of “Tank Man” and it was very helpful in the way that they included footage of witnesses who were present in the protests and massacre. They had lots of footage that was helpful to visualize what happened. After reading the sources for a while, it became a bit tiring to read so the documentary was helpful in its information and the way it was presented.

I chose to do a website because I really enjoy graphic design and working with computers, so a website was the best option for me. Doing a website is a way for me to present information visually and in an interactive way. While working with more two-dimensional designs, I saw people making website designs and it made me interested in the process of it. I like how you can convey a lot of information through pictures while also including your own creative twist. I’m excited to see how my project will turn out and how I choose to show my topic thoroughly.

My project related to the National History Day theme because it shows the attempt of Chinese democratic students against the powerful Chinese government. Students marched in Tiananmen Square for freedom of speech and press and the protests grew after first being started after the death of a political leader, Hu Yaobang, who worked for democratic reform in China. Their powerful voice sought to fight against the Chinese government, but China instead felt threatened and in retaliation, they sent out soldiers and police to stop the protests. However, the protests continued, and China increasingly started to feel the pressure from their citizens. They then started to send out tanks and troops to fire at the people parading the square and as a result, thousands of people died. The protest and death of many young students shows the attempt to break barriers between freedom of speech and the Chinese government.