

Process Paper

Originally we thought Marie Curie was an appropriate topic because we had learned about how many obstacles she had faced as a woman. We already knew some basic facts about her and that she had persevered and defended herself. However, as we dove deeper into our research, we discovered that she had to overcome multiple barriers throughout her life and career, such as poverty and discrimination for being an immigrant. That inspired us to choose this subject, because the information was promising, and we realized she still inspires and benefits us today.

We began our research by reading biographies and deciding which key aspects of Marie Curie's life were more relevant for our topic. We both read books about women in science, watched a documentary to learn about radioactivity, browsed websites, and found a few primary sources like Nobel Prize documents and a letter of support from Albert Einstein. Since there is so much written about Marie Curie, it was not difficult to find information but we needed to determine what sources to focus on. After we knew how we wanted to frame the topic, we had to think about how to present the information to make our argument. We decided to organize the content around the obstacles she encountered, and highlight that she was not an activist but a determined woman seeking to do what she loved and was exceptional at. We also wanted to make sure we explained what her discovery and contribution to science was. Once we made those decisions, we combined all of our research into our website.

We selected the website format for our project because we thought that this choice could thoroughly transmit our research to the reader, and look appealing and flashy at the same time. The website platform can organize the information in a manner that is effective and orderly, and make it easy to move from one topic to another. In the process of establishing the foundation of our website, we first decided where the information should be placed and learned to design the layout. We then used small boxes for content, and experimented how different fonts and colors would look together. We chose classic designs and color patterns that combined with old photographs. We then polished our writing and chose pictures, banners, maps, and quotes

which made our website more glamorous. We checked that everything was cohesive, and added our bibliography.

The story of Marie Curie related perfectly to the topic of breaking barriers simply because she had to break so many! She had to overcome discrimination and the denial of education or recognition for being a woman, being a foreigner, being poor and not having great conditions to work in. Despite these challenges, she was able to persist in her studies in chemistry and physics, which led her to win two Nobel awards and inspire women to follow in her footsteps and work in the field of science.