

## *Sesame Street* Process Paper

Children hold the future in their hands, and what we teach them now will impact their decisions as adults. In the late 1960s, Joan Ganz Cooney and Lloyd Morrisett created a television show to target children's brains emotionally and cognitively. *Sesame Street* is an educational program that has aired worldwide, teaching children life lessons and school skills. It has fifty-one seasons, all aimed to help children grow smarter, stronger, and kinder, as it says in their mission statement. *Sesame Street* has helped children who are not fortunate enough to get an early education in over 150 countries, helping close the achievement gap between socioeconomic classes. We thought *Sesame Street* would be such a unique topic to do because children grow up to be adults in the world, so their childhood development is extremely important for later decisions in life. *Sesame Street* is influencing children's decision-making skills and guiding them every step of the way.

We used secondary sources to help find out the background of *Sesame Street*. The internet was helpful to gather information, like websites and articles which were useful for research purposes. For example, a website we found most useful was "Sesame Street Workshop" which is *Sesame Street*'s official website for publishing their research. This secondary source gave us lots of information on what *Sesame Street* is about and how *Sesame Street* it's impacting children today.

We used primary sources to help get a firsthand look at *Sesame Street*'s vision. For example, we used Joan Ganz Cooney's research paper and episodes of *Sesame Street*. This instruction made up the information on the "*Sesame Street*'s Vision" page. The episodes helped us understand what work *Sesame Street* was putting out, and we saw all the episodes from a child's point of view.

The website was a challenge to make, taking many steps to get the best result that we could. We first came up with the thesis statement, then we made a platform to put our home page on, picking bright colors to contrast the presentation. After we researched our topic, we put the information in, starting with the background then going into the timeline, vision, and both the impact pages.

*Sesame Street* connects to the topic of communication because children are the future. They will grow up and become adults, and those adults will make decisions that impact our world. They make these decisions based on what they learn, and with a children's educational television show, this can make a huge impact on what they learn and what decisions they may make. *Sesame Street* not only communicates academic skills, but it also has messages about social issues. According to one study, young adults who watched the show as children have 16% higher GPAs in high school than their peers who did not watch the show. *Sesame Street* is continuing to help children all across the world increase their knowledge, so one day they may use their minds to make a difference in the world.