

It's Not a Barrier, It's an Opportunity

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Senior Division

Group Website

Student Composed Word Count: 1,200

Media Minutes: 2 and 10 seconds

Process Paper Word Count: 372 words

How did we choose our topic?

The Special Olympics is not a barrier, but an opportunity. We discovered our topic, the Special Olympics through online research after finding online articles about Camp Shriver. We became more interested in Eunice Kennedy Shriver's work, creating the Special Olympics. As we continued researching, we discovered where Shriver's influence came from and what inspired her. We became invested in our topic and believed it was well-suited for the theme. Eunice Kennedy Shriver, founder of the Special Olympics, provided athletes with the opportunity to showcase their abilities and strengths, thereby breaking barriers in the worldwide struggle for inclusion and acceptance in the lives of individuals with intellectual and physical disabilities.

How did we conduct our research?

Our research began online, looking through articles and databases, and reviewing general information. We used databases such as Academic Search Premier and the *New York Times* Article Archive. We continued our research by visiting Washburn University campus library, where we searched through online databases and books. We found numerous online videos of Shriver's speeches at the games throughout the years. Inside of the Special Olympics website and Eunice Kennedy Shriver's website was impactful letters and significant research material.

Why did we choose our category and how did we create our project?

We created a website for this year's History Day project. Using a website is convenient and easily accessible for both members of the group. Beginning the project was the difficult part, with the new website format proving to be hard to manage. Over time we learned how to better manage the platform and we began to piece our website together. We found information to substantiate our thesis to our thesis and wanted to highlight Shriver's impact. We divided the work between us and spent many hours deciding what direction to take and what information best supported our thesis.

How does our topic relate to the theme?

Eunice Kennedy Shriver founded the Special Olympics in the late 1960s, creating a movement that would impact millions. Shriver provided athletes with the opportunity to showcase their abilities and strengths, thereby breaking barriers in the worldwide struggle for inclusion and acceptance in the lives of individuals with intellectual and physical disabilities. The Special Olympics not only broke barriers, but opened opportunities that have lasted a lifetime. The Special Olympics Athlete Oath states, "Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt."

