

# **“Hope Will Never Be Silent:” Harvey Milk’s Crusade for LGBTQIA+ Rights**

**Turning the Tide for LGBTQIA+ Rights and Creating a Legacy of  
Equality and Acceptance**

Senior Group Website Division

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## **Process Paper**

### **How We Chose Our Topic:**

One of our group members, Bhargav Shriram, was heading to San Francisco International Airport to catch a flight when he noticed that the terminal he was departing from was dedicated to Harvey Milk. After learning about this interesting and impactful figure, Milk's legacy lingered in the back of his mind. When we began brainstorming ideas for our project, he suggested exploring Milk's life and work, and we knew we had hit a home run. Milk was a perfect example of someone who had broken barriers and was prominent in our local history. Therefore, we decided to delve into Harvey Milk's history and the impact he left on the world.

### **How We Conducted Our Research:**

As Milk was a local figure, we had the advantage of resources from our area, such as local libraries and the San Francisco airport terminal itself, to gather information and inspiration. During late-night calls, we also utilized the vast amount of digital resources available on the internet to access period articles and imagery. By using everything at our disposal, we were able to create a beautiful deep-dive that would serve as a fitting tribute to a man who changed the world.

### **How We Chose Our Project Type:**

When choosing our project format, we considered everything from exhibits to documentaries, but ultimately settled on a website for a few reasons. Firstly, Milk's story was relatively recent, which meant that it had a lot of media in the form of images, videos, and audio, all of which would be best displayed on a website. However, we faced an obstacle with the NHD website builder, as neither of us were computer science experts. Nevertheless, we believed that a website would be the perfect medium

for our project, and with perseverance and the great resources provided by NHD, we were able to create exactly what we had hoped for.

**How Our Project Relates to the Theme of Breaking Barriers of History:**

Harvey Milk was from the 1970s, which doesn't seem that long ago, but was significantly different from today in several key aspects. Although fashion and technology have changed a lot, so have rights, particularly LGBTQIA+ rights. In Milk's time, acceptance of people's true identities was not as widespread as it is today. Milk crossed immense odds to become the first openly homosexual person elected to public office in California. His breakthrough meant that the LGBTQIA+ community was crossing a massive ideological frontier. Through his work in office, he defied the status quo and promoted notions of equal opportunity, accomplishing what no one had done for the LGBTQIA+ community before. From this, we can conclude that Harvey Milk was a trailblazer, crossing a frontier into the modern age of acceptance and equality.