

Our History Day topic is about a teacher who taught her third grade class what discrimination feels like and the ground-breaking events that followed. “The Brown and Blue-Eyed Project, conducted by 3rd-grade teacher Jane Elliott, was aimed at creating an environment communicating racial inequalities during the 1960s. While this experiment proved to be unethical by some, it gained the support of others. She went on to do the project many more times after she retired. Jane even won the National Mental Health Association Award for Excellence in Education.” We picked our topic because we were interested, and because it was shocking how Jane Elliott persevered through the criticism, even when she knew she was doing the right thing.

We found most of our research through websites. We also found a lot at the Delano Library. Our team even got an interview with the creator of the project, Jane Elliott, along with reading her book that she wrote herself, called “*A Collar in My Pocket*”. We also used a website called “Gale in Context” which gave us access to different magazines, articles, and different interviews. Our understanding changed with finding research when we realized that the project was more than trying to prove that Martin Luther King Jr.’s assassination was wrong, it was trying to prove that racism in general is unnecessary.

Our group chose to do a website because at the time, one of us was distance learning while others were at school. We created it by logging on to a website platform, making all the tabs, and typing in all the information under each tab. Some skills we learned were mostly from typing on Google Docs, things like the composition of the Doc, like hanging indent, quoting, and phrasing things better. Most importantly, we learned how to better work together and be a team. We also learned more about the topic. We learned who Jane Elliott is, and how much the children were impacted after the experiment, as in a few days later. This project relates to the topic

Communication in History because of the way that Jane Elliott performed the project. She did it in a way where her students and all of the other people that she taught actually believed that some of their friends or peers were better or worse than them. This topic is important because no one had ever talked about racism to their class and acted on it. Even though it was hard, Jane braved through all of the mean and cruel things that people said and what they thought about her. She communicated racism to her many different students and the world around her by addressing racism in a very unique and bold way. No one had ever done what she had and barely anyone talked about racism, but she still stood up for what was right. When even her fellow teachers were against it she still went through with it. That is something we for sure admire about Jane Elliott.