

Jazz Baby: Changing the World Through Music

Junior Division - Individual Documentary

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Process Paper- 133 --->(500)

Website Word Count- 1,200

Process Paper

I chose this topic because I wanted to narrow my information to a moment in history where race relations were difficult. Due to the division plaguing our country I felt it would be very intriguing and exciting to better understand the mid 1900's as this tends to be the foundation of our country's major Civil Rights movements. With the information that I learned it was easy to make connections with the present day society. More than sixty years from this time period we as a nation are still struggling with race based issues and a deep hatred towards communism. I tried my best to make sure that I didn't make my opinions drive my topic so that the work would not feel too biased.

I completed my research by going through finding evidence and facts that supported my thesis and then made sure it was credible if not I scraped it and tried again. I wanted to represent the jazz songs that were played around the world to better represent these performers so I researched some of the songs and included them on the website. I also used the Library of Congress to collect several photos seen throughout.. How my topic was related to the problem with protesters helped make my research easier because it brought out all this research about racial injustice.

I'm a very technological person. I'm always on my computer and just surrounded by technology. I have been tech savvy for years and have been involved with my school Vex program. We have placed rather high in the nation and I wanted to improve my editing skills.

Jazz as a tool to relate to foriegn nations relates to communication by how these Jazz Ambassadors were used to counter the racial tension felt by many of these third world nations. They were informed with propaganda that the United States was the enemy as they treat brown

and black people unfairly and that their greed and need for control was too much. These ambassadors were important as they were able to communicate that these perspectives were not entirely true. Also, the most recent protest for African American Injustice helped inspire me to do this topic because it related to what we were going through and helped with research.

Primary Resources

“Document.” [GHDI, ghdi.ghi-dc.org/sub_document.cfm?document_id=4445](http://ghdi.ghi-dc.org/sub_document.cfm?document_id=4445).

This website was useful because it showed an interview Louis Armstrong had. In the interview Louis talks about how jazz and music is a universal language. He says "It's the same all over the world. I always say a note's a note in any language, if you hit it on the nose – if you hit it. But, they appreciate the technical part of your music, every bit of it – everybody's been so classical-minded all over Europe." This quote shows how even if the musician behind the music was from somewhere foreign, everyone could still enjoy it.

“Gottlieb, William P. Portrait of Dizzy Gillespie and Georgie Auld, Downbeat, New York, N.Y., ca. Aug. ||||, Monographic. Photograph. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <www.loc.gov/item/gottlieb.00351/>.

This picture shows Dizzy Gillespie and Georgie Auld. In the picture Georgie Auld looked happy to be around Dizzy. It shows that even though there were racial barriers Georgie was not afraid to be Dizzy's friend. Both Dizzy and Georgie looked happy and comfortable with each other. It almost seemed like there were no racial barriers at the time.

Gottlieb, William P. Portrait of Jack Teagarden, Dick Carey, Louis Armstrong, Bobby Hackett, Peanuts Hucko, Bob Haggart, and Sid Catlett, Town Hall, New York, N.Y., ca. July. ||||, Monographic. Photograph. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <www.loc.gov/item/gottlieb.00191/>.

This image showed the Jazz Ambassadors performing together. This showed the group dynamic and some of the performers. Knowing the groups dynamic helps us better understand how America promoted these performers. This image gave us the idea of how they performed and how many people loved to watch their performances. In the images you can see hundreds of people in the crowd which showcases that people loved to see them perform and that they were very successful in their career.

“Louis Armstrong and his All Stars. 's, 1950. Pdf. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <www.loc.gov/item/ihas.100010847/>.

This source is a newspaper clipping from 1950 promoting one of the Jazz Ambassador's shows. The clipping showed the names of Dizzy Gillespie and Gerry Mulligan incorrectly. The authors of the paper used the names Dizzy Mulligan and Gerry Armstrong. The newspaper article was made to inform people interested in the show the price of a ticket. In the image you can see the prices.

“Louis Armstrong.” Edited by Adam Augustyn The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica, Encyclopædia Britannica, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., 31 July 2019,

This website really elaborated on Louis Armstrong's music, while most other websites mostly elaborate on his childhood. A paragraph we used a lot was this one shown "Fame beckoned in 1922 when Oliver, then leading a band in Chicago, sent for Armstrong to play second cornet. Oliver's Creole Jazz Band was the apex of the early, contrapuntal New Orleans ensemble style, and it included outstanding musicians such as the brothers Johnny and Baby Dodds and pianist Lil Hardin, who married Armstrong in 1924. The young Armstrong became popular through his ingenious ensemble lead and second cornet lines, his cornet duet passages (called "breaks") with Oliver, and his solos. He recorded his first solos as a member of the Oliver band in such pieces as "Chimes Blues" and "Tears," which Lil and Louis Armstrong composed."

"Louis Armstrong, full-length portrait, playing trumpet with band at an outdoor gathering, Africa. Photograph. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <www.loc.gov/item/97518785/>.

This image was useful because it showed how people worldwide appreciated Louis. It shows no matter his race, people worldwide loved his music. When we were researching the topic of the Jazz Ambassadors our group looked for how their music was appreciated. This image shows that Armstrong had many fans everywhere. These fans loved his music regardless of the color of his skin.

"The Louis Armstrong House Museum." Louis Armstrong Home Museum, <https://www.louisarmstronghouse.org/>.

This website was very helpful because it provided a timeline of his life and helpful videos. This is a sentence that elaborated on his music that we used in our documentary "Armstrong's improvised solos transformed jazz from an ensemble-based music into a soloist's art, while his expressive vocals incorporated innovative bursts of scat singing and an underlying swing feel." This sentence demonstrates Armstrong's impact on the music industry. Another sentence which shows his impact on the racial barrier was "In America, Armstrong had been a great Civil Rights pioneer for his race, breaking down numerous barriers as a young man." This showed how he did a lot for his race at a young age.

UN Bureau. "Peace Through Jazz Music." InDepthNews, 29 Aug. 2019, www.indepthnews.net/index.php/the-world/africa/2936-peace-through-jazz-music.

We like this website because it mainly talks about how jazz provides peace. "Each year, on April 30, music lovers around the world celebrate International Jazz Day to "honour jazz and its enduring legacy, as well as its power to bring people together," says Audrey Azoulay, the director-general of the United Nations Education, Science and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), which works to promote global peace, justice and rule of law."

“William P. Gottlieb: Photographs from the Golden Age of Jazz.” Library of Congress, www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/connections/jazz/file.html.

This website showed many images of the Jazz Ambassadors together. It also gives detail of what was going on in the image. The images helped us see their journey around the world. This acts as a photo album of the tour. It shows the places they traveled to and the people they met throughout the tour.

Secondary Resources

Andrews, Evan. “9 Things You May Not Know About Louis Armstrong.” History.com, A&E Television Networks, 4 Aug. 2016, <https://www.history.com/news/9-things-you-may-not-know-about-louis-armstrong>

This website gave us many facts about Louis Armstrong that are very different from most of the websites we used. This source showed some fun facts to include in our documentary. The facts used here helped us understand Armstrong's personality and upbringing more. This quote really shows how he was always passionate about music. "Armstrong spent his youth singing on the street for spare change, but he didn't receive any formal musical training until age 11,"

Daniels, Patricia. “Biography of Louis Armstrong, Masterful Trumpeter and Entertainer.” ThoughtCo, ThoughtCo, 23 Jan. 2020, www.thoughtco.com/louis-armstrong-1779822.

This website was useful because it gives a detailed timeline of his life in parts. The website breaks Armstrong's life into sections like 'Early Life'. This makes researching for a certain time period easier. This quote tells us about when he got out of the colored Waif's home and how long he was in for. "In 1914, after 18 months at the Colored Waif's Home, Armstrong returned home to his mother."

Fordham, John. “The Wonderful World of Louis Armstrong.” The Guardian, Guardian News and Media, 26 July 2001, www.theguardian.com/culture/2001/jul/26/artsfeatures.jazz

This website was helpful because it showed his rise to fame and what it was like to be a worldwide known influencer who broke the barrier of racism and discrimination. This quote from the passage shows how Armstrong and his band really influenced the world of jazz. "Over three years these bands cut the most memorable music of the first phase of jazz." The band made the most memorable music which impacted modern music of the time.

“Jazz Origins in New Orleans.” National Parks Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, www.nps.gov/jazz/learn/historyculture/history_early.htm.

This website was useful because it showed where and how Jazz began. This especially helped with our documentary on the 'Jazz Origins' section. The timeline allowed us to see jazz progressing and evolving. The website says "New Orleans' unusual history, its unique outlook on life, its rich ethnic and cultural makeup, and the resulting cultural interaction set the stage for development and evolution of many distinctive traditions." which shows how jazz is a mix of many cultures and backgrounds.

“Louis Armstrong.” Biography.com, A&E Networks Television, 13 Jan. 2020, www.biography.com/musician/louis-armstrong.

This website was helpful because it has a quick facts section that breaks his life down into simple parts. The website also has sections that describe parts of his life in detail that we haven't seen on many other websites. "In 1936, Louis Armstrong became the first African-American jazz musician to write an autobiography, "Swing That Music." We never would have known that he was the first. The facts and format of this site made it simple to gather accurate information.

“Louis Armstrong.” PBS, Public Broadcasting Service, 10 Mar. 2017, www.pbs.org/wnet/americanmasters/louis-armstrong-about-louis-armstrong/528/.

This website was helpful because it shows a timeline of his fame along with a video explaining in further detail. A detail we thought was interesting is this quote "Armstrong's HOT FIVE and HOT SEVEN recordings remain to this day some of the best loved of the time." We found this interesting because the music aged well over the decades. Jazz music from the 1920's is still greatly remembered and adored.

NFHS, www.nfhs.org/articles/seriously-satchmo-the-importance-of-teaching-louis-armstrong-in-the-music-classroom/.

This website was useful because it shows the importance and impact Louis Armstrong had on the music industry. The source was mainly useful for our script in the section 'Louis Armstrong' A quote that stuck with me from the article is "In 2012 Time Magazine published an article entitled "The 20 Most Influential Americans of All-Time." There was only one musician on the list: Louis Armstrong." This shows how he impacted the culture of America and around the world.

“Obo.” Louis Armstrong - Music - Oxford Bibliographies, 6 Jan. 2020, www.oxfordbibliographies.com/view/document/obo-9780199757824/obo-9780199757824-0240.xml.

This website was useful because it gave a general overview of his career. These facts were beneficial because it gave us quick facts about his life and music. This is one

sentence in particular that we used “As the first African American artist to achieve nationwide stardom in the entertainment industry, Armstrong used his celebrity and immense musical gifts to bridge racial divisions in American society, opening doors for other African American performers to follow in his footsteps.” This sentence gave us the backbone of a few of our paragraphs used in the script.

Robinson, Caelynn. History of New York City, blogs.shu.edu/nyc-history/jazz-age-new-york/.

This website was helpful because it gave us information on the times Louis Armstrong lived through. The website gave us information on the customs of the time. "Music is not new to the city, and came to a peak during the jazz age." This shows how Jazz helped attract more people to New York and the impact it made on the culture of New York. It shows how without jazz music the culture of America and music in general would be different.

Russonello, Giovanni, and Nathan Bajar. “Louis Armstrong's Life in Letters, Music and Art.” The New York Times, The New York Times, 16 Nov. 2018, www.nytimes.com/2018/11/16/arts/music/louis-armstrong-archive.html.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/11/16/arts/music/louis-armstrong-archive.html>

This website gave us a lot of information on Louis Armstrong’s music and who he collaborated with in a few of his songs. It also gave us a clip of a live recording of his collaboration with Ray Martino. This article gave detailed facts about Armstrong’s life and how he greatly shaped the jazz community. One fact we never knew about Louis Armstrong was that he used to use a scrapbook to document his life and performances which then became an historical document.