

# Round the World with Nellie Bly: Fighting for Gender Equality Through Journalism

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Junior Division

Group Website

Website: 1194 Words

Process Paper: 500 Words

We started researching different topics and knew immediately that we wanted to research a topic that involved a frontier in women's rights. Eventually, we decided on Nellie Bly because her trip around the world caught our attention. She seemed to be very determined and her newspaper articles always included a new feat, something that a man had not considered or accomplished before. Nellie Bly fits this year's theme because she explored the frontier of women's representation in society by challenging the stereotypes placed on women.

We started conducting our research using trusted secondary sources to build a base of understanding and then started looking for primary sources to use in order to include voice and bring life to the project. This was the easiest way for us because it allowed us to build on previous knowledge. When first analyzing the sources, we looked for evidence to support our main research question, which was how Nellie Bly's trip around the world set the stage for exploration in the frontier of female representation outside of the home. When we were ready to start constructing our project, we looked at sources more thoroughly, focusing on our narrowed topic, which was her trip around the world and the impacts it had on the view on women in society.

We decided to display our project in the website format because we thought it best suited our skill sets and our research. We are both familiar with technology and website-building and wanted to display information in a clean, organized format. We used different colors and fonts to differentiate between quotes and our voice, and made sure the most important information was clearly highlighted. We felt as though our project told the story of Nellie Bly's life, while also establishing and explaining a

historical argument. We represented this aspect of our project by presenting our research chronologically from page to page, creating a story-like feel.

Our historical argument is that although Nellie Bly was not the fastest to travel around the world, her experiences and way of writing brought about many positive changes in the field of journalism. She disproved stereotypes about women and proved women were not only useful in the home. Her persistence inspired many women, not just in the field of journalism, but in all careers. She is remembered by many as “the best reporter in America”, even through her nonrecognition throughout the course of her life.

Our topic is significant in history because of the changes brought about by Bly's work. Although many completed the trip around the world faster than Bly, she was once the most popular woman in the world as she set out to chase her dreams. One of the main reasons that she was so well known and admired is because of her personality. Her determination and courage to tackle everything that was thrown at her inspired many and her impact reached far beyond the world of journalism and into the world of many other careers pursued by women.