

Samuel Morse and the Telegraph: Connecting the World

Amol Budhiraja

Senior Division

Individual Website

Student Composed Words: 1150

Process Paper: 498

I selected my topic through personal reflection. As I searched for my subject, I examined various objects that I frequently used, and I came across my telephone. I decided to research the origins and applications of communication technology, and then I ultimately decided to select the topic of the Telegraph. The next step I took was to conduct preliminary research upon the subject, and I had learned that there were 80 different versions and creators of the Telegraph. Through careful analysis and evaluation, I had selected to focus on Samuel Morse's Electric Telegraph. I immediately grew interested in the subject, especially its influence on the modern communication systems that we frequently utilize in our modern era for things ranging from social media to work and school.

I had conducted my research in the process of steps. I started my research by analyzing secondary sources such as websites, documentaries, and books to learn about my topic and the different ideas and components that formulate the creation, development, and application of the Telegraph. After noting and comprehending the key points and concepts surrounding my topic, I analyzed primary sources and expanded my knowledge upon specific events and ideas relating to Samuel Morse's Telegraph. To organize my information, I used source cards and detailed notes to sort my records, which enabled me to synthesize the data, uncovering and displaying the essential elements of themes of the Telegraph on my exhibit.

I selected the medium of a Website to showcase my learning for its versatility. Using a website, I can present my information that resonates with multiple learning styles: visual, auditory, and logical, while delivering an interactive experience. For the last seven years, I have created Exhibits for their interactive nature, and in this distanced environment, I believe that the Website will allow me to maintain this same hands-on style of presentation. Furthermore, I enjoy programming websites and have created many websites for professional organizations, so I am

very comfortable with web development. With the ability to import HTML and CSS, I could still add the functions and features I desire.

My topic relates to this year's theme, as the Telegraph has established the framework for the modern communication that we utilize today. Through its revolutionary quick communication apparatus and functionality, the Telegraph enabled communication between people across countries. In an era where warfare was frequent, the Telegraph was a vital component in the negotiations and interactions amongst nations. Moreover, it directly led to the creation of companies like Western Union and AT&T, two modern communications enterprises. Further, the Telegraph's invention also paved the way for women in the workplace as Telegraph Operation was a profession that required great skill (Fluency in Morse Code), thus enabling skilled women to compete directly with men. Ultimately, the Telegraph established our communication and understanding of our world. When our smartphones and computers are our primary connection with others, I can confidently confirm that the Telegraph is our key to understanding our past, present, and future.