

# **Stonewall Riots**

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Before I chose a topic, throughout 2020 there had been many situations occurring. These would be the Black Lives Matter Movement and the LGBTQ+ movements. One of the most important events in LGBTQ+ history would be the Stonewall Riots. My uncle has recently come out and it inspired me to focus on the Gay Liberation Movement. Since, the annual theme is communication, the Stonewall Riots was a form of communication itself as a protest to send the message of gay equality and liberty, as well as, the key to understanding the everyday lives of this important community. The New York Media was also a significant aspect of communication as many viewpoints and perspectives were driven chiefly by this.

I primarily started my research by searching for secondary sources with summaries of the overall event, how it started, who was involved, when it took place, and what was impacted. Later, I decided to focus on New York Time's newspapers discussing the Gay Liberation Movement and the Stonewall Riot. These newspapers helped provide information on how journalists interpreted this event. I learned how some writers were critical of the Stonewall Inn and tended to slander the community. Despite the biased information sources provided, the writers were able to include what the LGBTQ+ community wanted. They wanted rights and anti-gay laws to be abolished so they were very demanding about this. The more they said and did, the more publication they received to spread their message.

I chose to create my project through the NHD website central. It provided automatic tools and boxes to contain my information and it would allow the reader to navigate themselves throughout my website. I had to keep information simple yet descriptive enough that the audience knew why this event was so monumental.

My thesis would be, the Stonewall Riots began on June 28th, 1969 influenced by members of the LGBTQ+ community who refused police officials to get away with unrighteous abuse and raids towards their safe space. Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera came together with members of the mafia-run bar to propose a rebellion to bring national attention towards government officials and locals about their desire for equal rights in public locations and abolish anti-gay laws. This event was an aspect of communication as a protest to persuade others and communicated through New York Media to kick-start the Gay-Liberation Movement.

The LGBTQ+ community has been oppressed for centuries, they were punished for their sexual and gender preference and in some cases considered illegal despite being human. The community couldn't even work in most places and had to go to illegal bars just to enjoy themselves as police brutality is another problem that the community encountered. They were often raided, arrested, and harassed, so it was time to revolt against this. These are still issues continuing today, and it needs to be managed and prevented.