

Process Paper

How did you choose your topic?

I chose my topic based off of a video I had seen about the origins of germ theory. It was on Doctor John Snow's studies on the cholera outbreak in London. Around the end of the video, it mentioned that Snow's efforts finally paid off when Robert Koch managed to grow pure cultures of bacteria. It had also mentioned Louis Pasteur and his vaccines. I decided to look more into it because the barrier that was broken was not one people commonly think of. I also found it fascinating that something that is common knowledge for us was not held to the same position in the 1800s due to another theory that seems ridiculous to us now.

How did you conduct your research?

I started off by focusing on the two major figures that are commonly attributed to the theory's verification and what exactly the germ theory claimed. After I got my information, I looked for more sources related to the information I received to make sure it was accurate. I then started to specify what I wanted in the search bar, such as the steps of Koch's Postulates. When I began my website, I started to look for primary sources, like pictures, quotes, and letters. I also found sites with translated documents from Pasteur's studies, which were helpful as I needed them to provide more evidence in my website.

How did you select your presentation category and created your project?

I created a website because I had a bit of experience on making websites from last year's NHD. I was surprised when I found out the new web building application was NHD WebCentral instead of Weebly, but I thought this would be a good opportunity to learn the control just in case I have to participate in NHD again. I styled my website off of medical websites' color palettes, which are typically white, blue, and gray. I kept the style pretty simplistic because I was still learning tools the website builder provides. There were times where my mouse would not select the box I was clicking, so I had to save and reload the page. The web central would also duplicate an item when I was trying to move it.

How does your project relate to the theme?

Pasteur created vaccines for illnesses, such as rabies, and Joseph Lister promoted sterile surgeries during the time of the germ theory studies. Also, Koch's postulates helped scientists identify multiple disease. Those germ identifications helped scientists know what they had to directly target in diseases to cure an individual, such as the "magic bullets" that Paul Ehrlich envisioned in the 1900s after working in Koch's bacteriology lab. This theory also stands as a guiding concept in life sciences, so it also developed different types of sciences, such as virology, microbiology, and immunology. These events prove that the acceptance of the germ theory broke barriers relating to medicine, science, and public health.