

Process Paper

As someone who had not done History Day before, I was told by my gifted facilitator that finding a topic you could stay interested in for several months was important. With that in mind, I was sure that I wanted to focus my research on a woman who changed history. In addition, the medical field is something I am interested in, but don't know much about. I was hoping that I could combine these and find a woman in the medical field to research. After completing some research online, there were two stories that caught my attention. One of the women was named Patricia Bath. I found her story about breaking barriers as an African American woman in the medical field to be inspiring and chose her as my topic.

When first assigned with the task of finding sources, I went straight to the internet. I found several websites with information on Patricia Bath and added them to my bibliography. Next, my gifted facilitator took History Day students on a field trip to see how we could access more sources. We visited the Kansas State Historical Society Research Library and the Topeka Shawnee County Library. I looked for videos and books. I found several useful videos, but had difficulty finding books specifically on Bath. So I widened my research and decided to check out several books on cataracts which would provide good background information on my topic. I was also able to find a patent that she received. It ended up being very useful by providing information I hadn't found elsewhere. I tried to reach out to the American Institute for the Prevention of Blindness, but did not receive an answer.

With several categories to choose from, deciding how to present my information wasn't easy. After weighing the pros and cons of each presentation type, I decided that creating a website was the best option for me. I wanted to try something new and I had never created a

website before. Building a website also sounded fun. As someone who uses technology often, I liked the idea of building my project online. When I chose a website, I knew it was due sooner than other project types at district, but I knew that if I worked hard I could accomplish it. It took me a while to figure out the website builder, but after using it for a bit, I got the hang of it and was able to create my project.

Patricia Bath, an African-American women and ophthalmologist, broke medical, racial, and gender barriers by accomplishing many firsts and working to put an end to unequal access to eye care.