

Process Paper

One day, while my teacher was sifting through a box of ideas he had in class, he mentioned Jackie Ormes, the first female African-American cartoonist. This topic intrigued me and I spent some time looking into her story. Not only did Ormes draw cartoons, which I am interested in, she clearly related to the NHD theme of breaking barriers. As I continued to dive into my topic, I found that Jackie Ormes's actions broke barriers of race and gender. Jackie Ormes, the first female African-American cartoonist, battled sexual assault and accurately portrayed African-Americans through her comics, thereby breaking barriers in civil and women's rights.

To start my research, I first found general information about Jackie Ormes's life and career. Then, I began to dig deeper into sources that I could use to contextualize to this general information. I found sources such as a map of her childhood town and her high school yearbook. Everytime I would find something new about her that could potentially relate to her breaking barriers, such as what organizations she was a part of, or what awards she has won, I would do more research on those specific topics or events. At times when I struggled to think of new avenues to locate sources, I would go to my teacher for help and together, we would brainstorm more ideas.

For me, the website seemed to be the most effective way to present my ideas. I have taken web design, web development, and graphic design classes, therefore I have made websites before and enjoyed doing it. When I got to the point of starting the website, I looked at a few websites from previous years to see what web pages they included in their websites. This provided ideas regarding how I should group together my information. Next, I opened the

website and began to play around with the different elements. I decided what could be added in my website and what should not be added. I created tabs for all the webpages. Then, I created the webpages, each with the same header and buttons. Although I added and deleted webpages many times, I eventually figured out what my pages were going to be that would best represent my research, especially my primary sources. I then began choosing the fonts and colors that I wanted for my website, and made sure that all the same elements were formatted the same way.

When I first discovered Jackie Ormes and learned of her accomplishments, I recognized that she broke barriers by being the first female African-American cartoonist. Despite it being more difficult as an African-American female, she made her way in the comic industry. As a strong female African-American, she also used her comics to break barriers in both civil and women's rights. Ormes accurately portrayed African-Americans and battled against issues such as sexual assault and racial discrimination, thereby creating an unparalleled legacy in the cartoon industry.