

**The Harlem Renaissance:
Advancing African American Culture To A
New Frontier Through Music, Art, and
Literature**

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Individual Website

Student Composed Words: 1200

Multimedia: 3:00 minutes

Process Paper: 500 words

There were many ideas that I looked through while selecting the topic. I have participated in this competition for several years now and realized that I enjoyed studying various cultures, how they came to be, and how they developed. Thus, one topic that attracted me was the Harlem Renaissance, an explosion of artistic expression in Harlem during the 1920-1930s, which I had already learned a little about in class. I was especially interested in the jazz aspect of the Renaissance, as I have been in my school's jazz band for multiple years. In addition, knowing that African Americans had been oppressed for such a long time, I wanted to find out how that inspiring transition came to be. My topic correlates to the theme because the Harlem Renaissance was a movement that established a new cultural frontier for African Americans, led by pioneers, which eventually led to new social and political frontiers.

Coming into the research phase I knew this would be a tricky project. The cultural elements of the Harlem Renaissance are not necessarily defined rigidly, and there are also so many pioneers to talk about. For me, a good first step was to contextualize the Harlem Renaissance, so I read articles and watched videos about the oppressive practices of the Jim Crow Laws, leading to the Great Migration. Through researching the various figures during the Renaissance, I used a combination of primary and secondary sources, analyzing them, with websites such as Britannica to ensure credibility. I also interviewed a well-known author and experienced professor of history at the University of Virginia, Claudrena Harold, who provided perspective on some of the modern-day impacts of the Renaissance.

Throughout my research phase, I gathered many quotes, images, and videos. I believed that the best way to display this information was through a website. Moreover, I had already accumulated experience with website creators. I started by consolidating the layout of my site, making an extra effort to include more quotes and images to support my points, and color-coded my text to differentiate between all these elements. I tried my best to lay out the website in an organized manner so that it was comfortable for the reader. Lastly, I added all the necessary citations.

The pioneers of literature, music, visual, and performing arts during the Harlem Renaissance established a new frontier for the culture of African Americans and demolished the stereotypes predefined to them by the whites. As a result, African Americans felt a greater sense of unity due to these shared experiences and staged political movements to advocate for equality. One such example was the Civil Rights Movement, which saw Martin Luther King Jr. quoting pioneers of the Harlem Renaissance. These movements were not limited to America, as the Negritude Movement in France also increased in popularity due partly to the cultural influences of the Harlem Renaissance. The creativity during the Harlem Renaissance has been passed down through the generations to create a modern black community rich in history and culture.