

Process paper

Finding a topic for me was difficult in the beginning because I wasn't really coming by topics in which I was interested in. Nuclear accidents have always intrigued me and I thought finding something that correlates to nuclear accidents would go very well with the theme *Rights and Responsibilities*. The topic The Three Mile Island stuck out to me because it was a major nuclear accident which took place in the United States. This topic really challenged the rights of the people as well as the responsibility for workers and important people of the power plant.

I didn't know much about this accident, so I had to begin by looking through research to better understand the topic. I relied primarily on educational websites and databases to ensure the information I gathered was both accurate and reliable. Using these credible resources helped me obtain a well-rounded collection of facts and perspectives. Throughout my research, I discovered primary and secondary sources, each offering insights that were significant to my project. The primary sources provided direct evidence, while the secondary sources provided interpretations and broader context. Incorporating these materials enriched the content by adding depth and credibility. I found many pieces of evidence that aligned with specific pages I was working on, which enhanced my ability to connect my topic to the theme *Rights and Responsibilities*.

Once my research was complete, I put together all the knowledge I had gained about the Three Mile Island accident into my research paper. I included a variety of quotes, both from everyday citizens and individuals in positions of higher authority, which greatly enhanced my project by providing multiple perspectives on the event and its impact. These viewpoints helped illustrate the broader social, political, and emotional responses to the crisis, making my project more engaging. However, finding credible information, quotes, and media was challenging, especially since this was my first time participating in National History Day (NHD) and creating a website for my project. Despite these difficulties, the process taught me research skills, like how to evaluate sources for reliability and how to use primary and secondary materials to support my arguments. This experience also improved my learning on the Three Mile Island accident.

This event is significant because it was the first nuclear accident of its kind in the United States, shaping how the country manages nuclear energy and safety today. The partial meltdown caused widespread fear, leading to evacuations of some and public panic, but it also united people. The incident exposed the need for better communication and stricter safety measures, prompting changes in nuclear regulations. Its legacy continues to influence discussions on nuclear power, safety, and environmental responsibility.

