

Process Paper

All members of our team have a love for history and enjoy doing big, in-depth research projects. We have competed in National History Day in the past and we enjoyed creating a high-quality project to compete against others. We were very excited to hear this year's theme would be breaking barriers in history because we thought this would be the perfect theme to highlight some great things the women of the past have accomplished. We decided to focus our research on Elizabeth Blackwell's journey to becoming America's first female physician, and the struggles she faced along the way.

When we began our research, we started by trying to find out who Elizabeth Blackwell was. Our school took a trip to the University of Eau-Claire McIntyre Library, where we had the opportunity to work with our local archivist, Mr. Greg Kocken. At the library, we had a number of resources available to us that we would not be able to access at our high school, so we took every opportunity to use them while we were there to gather valuable information. When we started researching, we discovered that, at the time, Elizabeth was the only female doctor in America. Later on, she founded a school to give other women the opportunity to pursue a career in medicine. We were eager to explore further and learn more about her lasting impact on women and the medical profession.

After finishing our research, we selected a medium to present our findings. We decided to make a website because we thought this would be the best way to use our group's strengths to our advantage, and we believe a website is the best way to portray our information in a visually pleasing way. After the hard work of learning how to use the new software and gathering materials, we were able to compile all of our research into a visually appealing website that conveyed our message and facts well. At our school competition, we were given feedback from a couple of judges on a few minor changes that we could make before the regional competition. We made a few changes, polished up our layouts, and made sure there were no grammatical errors. After the regional competition, we took the feedback given to us by the judges and polished our website even further, to create a product fit for the state competition and, in the future, the national competition.