

**Rainbows on the Street:
How the Stonewall Uprising Broke Barriers**

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**Junior Division
Group Website
Student-composed words: 1199
Process Paper: 494**

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Process Paper

Our project revolves around gay liberation in the 1900s during the time of the Stonewall Uprising in 1969. We chose this topic because we noticed how society became more accepting of the LGBTQ community in recent years. We knew that during the 1960s, there was a substantial amount of oppression against the LGBTQ community. We wanted to understand why and how discrimination towards the LGBTQ community changed. After we completed an independent project for our gifted and talented class on this issue, we craved a deeper understanding of the subject. As a result, we transitioned our topic to this National History Day project.

We conducted much of our research online, looking at numerous reliable sources. At first, we searched for background information about the Stonewall Uprising on Google. As we narrowed down our idea for our project, we started researching targeted subtopics for our project about the Stonewall Uprising and its impact on breaking the social barrier in the United States. As we searched, we took notes on a collaborative Google Document. We noted quotes and significant ideas that related to our topic. We even found a book about the Stonewall Uprising in school. While one of us read the book, they marked pages related to our project topic. We both took part in completing the thorough inquiry and the note-taking.

The reason we did a group website was that we are both interested in web design. Since we competed in this category before, we were most comfortable with this platform. In the previous year, we made individual websites for our NHD project, so this year we wanted to come

together and complete a group website since we had similar ideas. To create the site, we first synthesized our research and noticed patterns. We determined subtopics that would eventually turn into the web navigation pages. Then we both began writing the content for our pages. As we finished writing for each page, we put them into their respective places on the website. From the text, both of us built and formatted the rest of the pages, adding quotes and images that further explained our points.

Our project relates to the theme of breaking barriers because the Stonewall Uprising started the gay liberation movement, which led to decreased social and political obstacles for members of the LGBTQ community. The gay community was ready to take action following the Stonewall raid in Greenwich Village after years of being harassed and oppressed. The bust at Stonewall led to days of rebellion and activism by the LGBTQ community. The built-up frustration was finally let out during the Stonewall Uprising. Because of this spark of activism, many individuals in the community kept the momentum going. They started the gay liberation movement and created more radical groups to break the social barrier that was present in their day to day lives. Today there are many social and political advances for members of the LGBTQ community because of the Stonewall Uprising.