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National History Day

Process Paper

When I first began this project, I was unsure about the topic I wanted to research. I originally planned on exploring nuclear warfare, but as I began researching, I realized the topic did not interest me. I brainstormed topics I wanted to know more about and finally chose medicine because it was a topic I want to learn more about and a field I am interested in as a potential career. I needed to focus on one specific topic in medicine and thought of people or discoveries that greatly influenced our society. I chose to research penicillin, the world’s first antibiotic, because it was a crucial to the development of medicine.

I conducted research on penicillin by using a variety of online resources and my local library. I found information from a book and used virtual reference libraries to find websites that contained valuable information about penicillin. I used websites from educational publishers and historical organizations. I found information on the people who discovered penicillin, how penicillin was mass-produced, and reports and statistics of how people were affected by penicillin. I also found images from some of the websites and used image search engines to find other images.

I chose to make a website so I could use images and primary sources, such as advertisements, to support my thesis. I wanted to add images, quotes, and videos that helped explain information and validate my points. Building a website also seemed like a good learning experience because I had never created one before. I first created an outline and based my website and information off that. I then constructed my website by using the National History Day Weebly portal. I first created links between pages and added different pages for different pieces of information I wanted to address. Overtime I added more images and facts to my website. Once I had an almost complete site I reformatted my website to look nicer and reread my information. I added finishing touches, then added a bibliography, and later my process paper.

My project relates to the National History Day theme because the discovery of penicillin led to people and scientists to explore new methods and discoveries. This ultimately leads to people exchanging ideas on how to create penicillin and the exchange of penicillin across nations. People also encountered penicillin when they became ill and scientists encountered problems and challenges when creating penicillin. Penicillin relates to the theme Exploration, Encounter, and Exchange.