

For our NHD project, we chose Jackie Robinson. We were pondering different topics but decided to choose this one because of the great contribution Jackie made. Jackie's contribution was undisputedly one of the greatest advances in sports to ever be made and this caught our attention for a project. Our group knew that Jackie's contributions were too great to go unnoticed and we knew we needed to express this in our project. Jackie did something that many people imagine they had the bravery to do. The commitment and effort put in by Jackie is one reason why we were drawn to this and knew we needed to choose it as our topic.

Our group conducted a lot of research for this project. We started off with just three primary and two secondary sources and from there, our research just took off. We started looking at websites and books written and dedicated to Jackie and all the different aspects of his life. Then we focused on primary sources and the things Jackie received from other players and fans. We saw the cruel hate letters that were sent to hurt Jackie and make him feel worse about himself. We saw the good encouraging things people said about him and how great of a man he really was. Our group also looked at the website created by Jackie's daughter and what she had to say about her dad and what he accomplished. We attempted to obtain an interview with her but she was very full with other things she needed to attend to, but we moved past this and contacted others for hopeful interviews and sadly did not get any responses. However, this did not set us back and we kept in our pursuit and got all the information we needed to create an astonishing project.

The presentation category we selected was a website. We selected this because it seemed like the best way to get our information across in an orderly way. We felt like the website was going to be to our advantage because we can access it everywhere we go without having to meet up at each other's houses. The website is also very user-friendly and easy to use so we felt like that was the best choice for us. We have heard from prior participants of NHD and based on their advice we also felt like the website was the best tool for us. The website, in the end, has proven to be very good and a great tool for our group in NHD.

This year's theme for NHD is Breaking Barriers. Our project is on Jackie Robinson and how he broke the color barrier in sports. This relates to the theme because Jackie Robinson broke the barrier of allowing African Americans to be able to play sports with whites. In 1947, Jackie

Robinson at age 28 became the first black player in Major League Baseball when he stepped onto Ebbets Field in Brooklyn to compete for the Brooklyn Dodgers. Jackie broke the color barrier in a sport that had been segregated for more than 50 years by starting at first base for the Brooklyn Dodgers. In that same year, Robinson helped lead the team to win the National League pennant, and he went on to win Rookie of the Year. Robinson took on a heavy burden when he was offered a spot on the Brooklyn Dodgers' roster but filled the void that African Americans needed to become accepted in society and in sports.