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Senior Division

Website

Word Count: 431

Choosing the topic for the theme of breaking barriers in history was very interesting to think of. We had wanted to pick a topic that would not only be intriguing, but would also play a role and impact our lives as well, which is why we chose the Equal Rights Amendment. To narrow down our topic, we chose to focus on Phyllis Schlafly, Gloria Steinem, and their beliefs that greatly effected the movement of the ERA.

We began our research by getting information on Phyllis Schlafly's political views, specifically through the book Phyllis Schlafly Speaks, Volume 1. This source gave us knowledge on her conservative movements and activities, which further lead us to research her speeches and writings about her opposing beliefs to the ERA. Next we found sources to understand exactly what the ERA was, such as USHistory.org. By understanding the text of the document, we then looked into specific states that supported and opposed passing the amendment, and their reasoning behind their decisions. We also were able to find activists who supported the ratification of the ERA like Gloria Steinem, so we researched about her life and what her beliefs towards the amendment were. Another step of our research was to find pictures, and we did this by looking at movements and walks that people did to spread their opinions on the ERA through signs and posters.

The website category was easily chosen by us to use to complete our project. We were able to insert pictures such as the actual text of the Equal Rights Amendment and an audio clip of Phyllis Schlafly because she greatly opposed the amendment. It was also convenient to make a website as our project because we could both work on it whenever we needed without having to be together. We got to choose the specific layouts and designs on our website to make our project organized and still get our points across.

The Equal Rights Amendment and the works of Phyllis Schlafly and Gloria Steinem are strongly related to the NHD theme of breaking barriers in history. The ERA worked to make women treated more fairly and equally compared to the life and rights of men, which was a major issue for women in earlier years. Gloria Steinen worked to achieve the goal of gender equality and was a major supporter of the ERA. Although there was movements that worked to gain equal rights for everyone, there was still organizations and impactful people such as Phyllis Schlafly that opposed the ERA and took many actions to keep the barriers in place.