

## Process Paper

To begin our National History Day (NHD) project, each group member picked a topic that interested us. After thinking and researching various issues, we finally decided on the 1979 March on Washington for Gays and Lesbians. We chose this topic because three of us are in the LGBTQ+ community, and one of us is an ally, so we were very interested in LGBTQ+ rights and protests. We made sure our project fit the theme by doing a little research before choosing our official topic. We are personally connected to this topic because we know many allies and LGBTQ+ people.

We began the research process by finding information from various sources about our project and putting them into different research categories. We used a website featuring Larry Butler's primary source images of the march. We also had an opportunity to interview Richard Burns and Amy Hoffman, two organizers of the march. They gave us valuable information on the organization and planning of the march along with the opposition to the march. Another valuable source we used was the March On Washington pamphlet. It explained the five demands of the march to us. We divided the research by choosing which pages each of us will do and focused our research based on those choices. After our district contest we submitted an e-review of our website to the National Museum of African-American History and Culture. The review helped us make revisions to our project. We worked together to make sure our sections flowed.

We chose the website category because two of our group members made a website on WebCentral last year, and we wanted to do it again with the two new group members. The website category is a good fit for us because we like designing things and thought it would be fun to create a website with the information we learned. The challenge we faced was choosing the right colors. We wanted to use the colors from the Pride flag. We needed to make sure that our website wasn't overpowered by color but we wanted it vibrant. We compromised on which color to use for our student-composed text, quotes, and titles.

Our topic, the 1979 March on Washington for Gay and Lesbian Rights, connects to the NHD theme for this year because the march communicated the gay and lesbian community's demands through protests and a mass gathering. As we are finishing our project, the Equality Act to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity was passed in The House Of Representatives. This is very exciting because it is a big step for the LGBTQ+ community. The march's purpose was to get the word out to work together to stop discrimination against the LGBT community. It led to an understanding of the rights and equality that the LGBT community was hoping for. The march itself did not make immediate changes, but it united the gay and lesbian community across the nation and led to eventual legislation protecting gay and lesbian people.