

Ellen DeGeneres: Coming Out

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Group Website

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Process Paper

We chose to do our project on Ellen DeGeneres coming out in 1997 because after doing research about others who have also broken down several large barriers, we decided that we wanted to create a project about someone who is still continually making a big impact today. This topic also spoke to us because acceptance of the LGBTQ+ community is still something that is still pertinent in today's society. This issue is still important today, and we wanted to research a topic that is related to it, considering that Ellen was one of the celebrities to bring attention to the issue.

We first started conducting our research by watching the episode that started it all, "The Puppy Episode" on Ellen's sitcom, "Ellen". By watching that we had a great understanding of the initiating events. We also watched and read several interviews that Ellen was a part of shortly after the episode aired which gave light to some of the emotions and feelings that people had towards the episode. These interviews also helped to highlight how monumental of an event this was. After watching all of these pieces, we looked at what impact Ellen was still making today, and researched some of her more current accomplishments, including continual advocacy for those being discriminated against and other honorable causes. All of this research allowed us to create a fully comprehensive project that demonstrates how big of an impact Ellen has had, and how many barriers she has overcome.

We decided to create our project using a website due to the fact that our event was much more recent in history, so there are many digital elements that we were able to incorporate. However, creating this website was not without a learning curve. We had to learn how to insert images, move the text boxes, and create navigation bars, all of which were new to us. We began by trying to decide how we wanted to organize our information and creating pages for each subtopic we wanted to analyze. We then added pictures, quotes, and information to each subpage that we thought would engage and interest our audience.

Our project has a strong relation to this year's NHD theme, breaking barriers, because Ellen DeGeneres coming out on national TV broke down several barriers and stigmas. By doing this, Ellen created a conversation about accepting those in the LGBTQ+ community, and broke down the barrier between them and the rest of the world; even though she faced an undeniable amount of backlash for it. Our project also relates to this year's theme because Ellen is still advocating for those in a similar position to her 20 years ago, and she is helping them to overcome obstacles and help them become their true selves.