

This year, we wanted to research a topic that was highly intriguing and that represented people like us. For example, Shirley Chisholm was a proud woman that was of West Indian descent. She was Barbadian and we are Jamaican and Trinidadian. We found that we were obligated to create our website on her because it's very rare that you see people of West Indian descent get recognized in U.S history. Shirley broke many barriers, however, the most monumental barriers were being the first African-American Congresswoman and the first African-American to run for President (Democratic Party). We desired to focus on a person that tremendously transformed history and has even made a powerful impact on our lives today.

We found most of our information on different websites and we also used her book for quotes and additional details that we couldn't find on the internet. We found many primary sources including newspaper articles, video interviews, and campaign posters. We decided to use a blue ombre backdrop to represent Shirley's Campaign in the Democratic party. Our favorite primary source was her book Unbought and Unbossed because we found many good quotes such as, "I was the first American citizen to be elected to Congress in spite of the double drawbacks". Once we started reading it we couldn't put it down since it had vital information that would help us later. We also had help from a History Day mentor and our English teacher.

Although this is our second time participating in the National History Day competition we came across a few rough waves at sea. For instance, we didn't use Weebly and we didn't have a teacher to guide us with researching and writing. However, our biggest wave was being pessimistic about re-entering the competition because we didn't want to let ourselves down. Despite the fact that we encountered these waves we did not let that stop us, just like Chisholm. We made it through the bumpy waters and decided

to honor someone who doesn't get nearly enough recognition. Not only did she inspire people in her lifetime and break barriers, but she also influenced people like us, young women of color who want to make a difference and alter the world for the better.

Our topic fits into this year's theme because Shirley Chisholm bravely broke the barriers of sexism by tearing off her apron and stepping up to the podium, becoming the first African-American woman in Congress. She also jumped over the hurdles of racism and sexism by becoming the first-ever African American to run for the Democratic nomination for president. The importance of our topic is that although the fight for equality still continues in America, Shirley Anita Chisholm inspired many others like her to break their barriers and prove to society that minorities, women, and all people with contrasts can powerfully make an impact on history that will forever be recognized.