Feminine Fighters

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Senior Division

Partner Exhibit

**Process Paper**

Why we chose this topic:

We decided on this topic by first recalling some articles that we had discovered in our AP English class. These articles were about important women activists and how they live in the present day, along with their accomplishments in the past. As we read these articles, we noticed that they all had one thing in common, Betty Friedan and her book, *The Feminine Mystique.* We knew from that moment that this book played an important part in history, specifically for the women’s movement. This is how we decided to choose this interesting and valuable turning point in history as our topic.

How we conducted our research:

In order to conduct our research, we had help getting started from our library workers at our schools Midkiff Learning Center. They introduced us to a very commendable site, which lead us to informative articles about Betty Friedan and *The Feminine Mystique.* From there we used the Internet to search for credible websites about this book and about Betty Friedan. We also looked at interview videos so that we could learn more about Friedan’s story from her perspective. On impulse, we also borrowed *The Feminine Mystique* from our library and read it so that we could experience the full impact this book had. Reading this book was the best decision we made as it helped us to understand as researchers how powerful *The Feminine Mystique* really was.

How we selected our presentation category and created our project:

We selected this category because we both are females and had a passion for learning more about the women’s movement. This project was full of research, learning, experiencing, and putting all of these things together. At first we thought that we would go with a board, but then we liked the approach of a more technological perspective. This website also gave us the opportunity to include more information, videos, and slideshows full of pictures to appeal to the viewer. We basically transferred our final draft onto the website and searched for images to put with it. We tried to have a creative approach so that our layout would be somewhat interesting and appealing to the viewers. This project was above all, entertaining and informative to us as students beginning to learn about the effects of certain events on history.

How our project relates to the NHD theme:

This years National History Day theme is “Turning Points in History: People, Ideas, Events.” Our topic relates to this theme because *The Feminine Mystique* is a very important turning point for women’s past. This amazing novel is a turning point in history because it gave women the courage and reason to find their identity. Many women were feeling the stress and emptiness of the feminist perspective, but with this new viewpoint women were given confidence to change their “normal” lifestyle knowing they were not alone.