

Process Paper

At the beginning of the year, our group struggled to find a topic. After many brainstorming sessions, we narrowed it down to topics that matched the theme and expressed our interests as a group. We decided specifically that we wanted to do a topic revolving around art, but finding an art figure who broke a historical barrier proved to be difficult. That is until we heard about Claude Monet, the "Father of Impressionism." Claude Monet was the right topic for us because we both are interested in art and wanted a diverse topic.

Our research began by gathering general information about our topic. Monet was someone we knew little about, so this was an important step. We used websites at first, searched for articles on *Chronicling America*, and ordered several books. Finding media was an integral part of our research, such as Monet's paintings, pictures, or videos. Books proved to be very useful in our project, such as *Art Profiles for Kids: Claude Monet* by Jim Whiting and *The Life and Art of Claude Monet* by Sara Pappworth. These books provided background information for our topic. We received *Monet* by Christoph Heinrich from the Denver Art Museum after one of our group member's relatives visited there. It contained images and source information. Between competition levels, we received an e-review of our project from the National Museum of African American History and Culture, providing specific feedback about our website that we used in making revisions. We also participated in the GoNationals! Workshop provided by our state affiliate. After state, we looked into topics such as the French Third Republic and La Belle Epoque. Learning about these things helped broaden our research and provided context for Monet's success.

We wanted to do a website because we needed to include images and media to showcase Monet's art. Learning to build a website on NHD WebCentral was challenging, especially since we had already learned with Weebly last year during NHD. We spent a lot of time working with our coaches to figure out the platform. We experienced some interface layout problems while working, so we contacted the NHD IT department. They advised us to leave the blank space on the right because it would require a total website rebuild to fix. We found appropriate quotes to highlight our student composed text and often rewrote to create a better flow. We spent approximately 80 hours on our project.

Claude Monet broke barriers in the art world by creating the Impressionist movement. The changing political and cultural environment of France created an opportunity for Monet and a new art form to thrive. Monet decided he did not need to conform to the traditional rules established by the Paris art scene. Claude Monet faced barriers like rampant criticism, poor mental health, and financial struggles. He showed the art world that you could be successful in

doing what you were passionate about. Claude Monet inspired others to do what they love instead of what society expected.