

NHD Process Paper

I chose Jackie Robinson as my topic because of his significant impact on American history. He was the first African American to play in Major League Baseball, and his story is one of perseverance and courage. Robinson's legacy has inspired countless individuals to fight for racial equality and social justice.

I conducted my research through a variety of sources, including primary documents, different websites, and I even interviewed my grandfather who lived in Brooklyn at the time, stating how much of an immediate impact Jackie had on the community. I also looked at the historical context surrounding Robinson's life and career, including the Civil Rights Movement and the integration of professional sports.

I created my project through an exhibit that showcased Robinson's life and achievements. I included photographs, a timeline and important quotes that highlighted his contributions to American society that have lasted to the present day.

My historical argument is that Jackie Robinson was a turning point in American history. He paved the way for future generations of African Americans to succeed in professional sports and other fields. Robinson's impact extended beyond the baseball diamond, as he also fought for civil rights and social justice throughout his life. His legacy continues to inspire individuals to stand up for what they believe in and fight for a more just and equitable society.

Jackie Robinson's story is significant because it represents a turning point in American history. He shattered the color barrier in professional sports and paved the way for future generations of African Americans to succeed. Robinson's legacy has inspired countless individuals to fight for social justice, and his impact can still be felt today. By studying Robinson's life and achievements, we can gain a deeper understanding of how difficult the Civil Rights Movement was and how Mr. Robinson changed history forever on and off the field.

Robinson was a trailblazer in the community of baseball, breaking Major League Baseball's infamous color barrier when he started at first base for the Brooklyn Dodgers, on April 15, 1947. This was not easy for him. Being the brunt of ridicule, foul language and mistreatment from the spectators and players, he had to show great restraint from overreacting. Jackie Robinson's calmness and affable manner combined with his tremendous skill, earned him the Rookie of the Year Award. He proved everybody wrong. His athletic ability and calmness while under pressure effectively led to the integration of the major leagues. His talent has earned him six All-Star appearances, MVP Award and leading the Dodgers to the 1955 World Championship. His baseball career culminated in his induction into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1962, Jackie Robinson was not done. His 10-year career with the Dodgers helped set the stage for the burgeoning civil rights movement.

He turned to the world of business as a Vice-President for Chock Full O'Nuts, founding the Freedom National Bank in Harlem and a construction company to build affordable housing for black people. He was an advocate for civil rights and social justice for all. The Freedom National Bank was the vehicle to stop the policy of redlining whereby banks drew a red line around a district that they were unwilling to finance. He had to do something where he saw injustice. His courage and determination in the face of racial prejudice and discrimination served as an inspiration to millions of people around the world. He is the reason for thousands of black athletes playing in professional sports. Overall, Robinson's legacy has had a profound impact on sports and society, and his story continues to resonate with people of all ages and backgrounds. His contribution to the world is immeasurable and he is widely regarded as a symbol of hope and progress.

Annotated Bibliography

Primary Sources

Branch Rickey and Jackie Robinson. Brooklyn, New York.

This image shows Jackie Robinson and Branch Rickey contributing together on a paper.

Jackie Robinson broke baseball's color barrier 75 years ago. Brooklyn, New York.

This photo is an image of Jackie Robinson with his teammates inside of the dugout before his first major league game.

Jackie Robinson: Get to the Bag, <https://imdb.com>, 2022.

This documentary shows the current impact of the legend Jackie Robinson. It demonstrates his immediate impact on 1950's society and how his legacy lives on to the present.

"Jackie Robinson's Hof Speech: 02/18/2022." *MLB.Com*, www.mlb.com/video/jackie-robinson-s-hof-speech. Accessed 29 Oct. 2023.

This website had a video attached to it. In this video Jackie Robinson expresses how much Branch Rickey helped him to get to the MLB.

"Jackie Robinson Stats, Height, Weight, Position, Rookie Status & More." *Baseball*, Baseball Reference, www.baseballreference.com/players/r/robinja02.shtml#all_batting_standard. Accessed 8 Jan. 2024.

This helped me to understand how good a player Jackie Robinson was throughout his career. It also proved to me that he was as good as, if not better, than any white man playing the game at the time.

Robinson, Jackie Roosevelt. *Jackie Robinson: I Never Had It Made*. New York: Harper Collins, 2003.

This was helpful in my research because it provided firsthand information from Jackie Robinson himself. Throughout the book you can see how Jackie Robinson had a vision and purpose to change things the way they were.

Secondary Sources

Brown Jr., Thomas. "Jackie Robinson in 1947: Debut with the Dodgers." *Society for American Baseball Research*, sabr.org/jackie75/dodgers/. Accessed 29 Oct. 2023.

This website told me about the exciting facts on the day of his debut.

"How Jackie Robinson Changed History." Jackie Robinson, www.u-s-history.com/pages/h2068.html. Accessed 29 Oct. 2023.

This website helped me see how exactly Jackie Robinson changed history.

“Jackie Robinson *Jackie Robinson Foundation*, The Jackie Robinson Institution, jackierobinson.org/jackie-robinson/#:~:text=Jackie%20Robinson%20was%20born%20on,University%20of%20California%20Los%20Angeles. Accessed 27 Oct. 2023.

This source helped me gain information on Jackie Robinson's early childhood and the hardships of his family.

Kaiser, Lisbeth and Chow, Stanley. *Who Was Jackie Robinson?* London: Rise x Penguin Workshop, 2021.

This book provided me with key information on Jackie Robinson. For example, it helped me understand just how great of an athlete he was. I trust this source because of the key facts that it provides.

Osborne, Mary Pope, et al. *Baseball: A Nonfiction Companion to Magic Tree House #29 "A Big Day for Baseball."* New York: Random House, 2017.

Very helpful resource for my research because it gave me the time period that Jackie lived in. I trust this source because I have read several other books that this author has written.

“Robinson, Jackie.” *The Martin Luther King, Jr. Research and Education Institute*, kinginstitute.stanford.edu/robinson-jackie. Accessed 11 Oct. 2023.

This article revealed the respect and honor Martin Luther King Jr. and Jackie Robinson had for each other. MLK tells Jackie that he uses his athletic prowess to bring strength to the civil rights movement.

Schwartz, Larry. “Jackie Changed the Face of Sports.” *ESPN*, ESPN Internet Ventures, www.espn.com/classic/biography/s/robinson_jackie.html#:~:text=Jackie%20Robinson%20C%20who%20broke%20the,generations%20of%20africa%2DAmerican%20athletes. Accessed 9 Jan. 2024.

This website stresses that no athlete in the 20th century has impacted more lives during a short life span.

Thomas, Damien. “Jackie Robinson: Paving the Way Forward.” *National Museum of African American History and Culture*, 19 Apr. 2023, nmaahc.si.edu/explore/stories/jackie-robinson.

This source shows how Jackie Robinson paved the way for thousands of African American baseball players. The source shows that Jackie was one of the best major league players of all time and how he helped the civil rights movement. This helped me learn just how good of a player that he was. I used this source because it is helpful for my civil rights research.

Wiggins, Candice. “Jackie Robinson: A Legacy of Activism.” *The American Prospect*, 31 Jan. 2019, prospect.org/civil-rights/jackie-robinson-legacy-activism/.

This helps me understand how impactful Jackie Robinson was to the black community.

Photos

42 Day. MLB.Com.

This shows how Jackie Robinson's impact lives on today and especially on April 15.

42 Thank You Jackie. Pintrest.Com

50th Anniversary. 1997. Accessed 2023.

Jackie is honored on the 50th anniversary of breaking the color barrier.

Birthplace of Jackie Robinson plaque. Georghistory.Com

Black and White kids win a baseball game together. Getty Images. Accessed 2023.

This photo shows a team of black and white kids winning a baseball game which could not have been done without Jackie Robinson.

Boys and Girls club. Walb.Com. This shows Jackie Robinsons impact lives on today.

Cairo Gerorgia. Cities.ORG.

This is where Jackie Robinson was born and raised as a child of five

Civil Rights protest. 2017. Webbly.Com. Accessed 2024.

This helped me with my research because it showed how passionate Jackie Robinson was about the civil rights movement and how he changed American history.

Courage and Pride Jackie Robinson the MLK of the MLB. 2022. Youtube.

Jackie Robinson showed courage and pride and did not fight back just like MLK.

Greatest UCLA Logos. UCLA.

This photo helped me showcase where Jackie Robinson attended college and was one of the greatest athletes ever

Jackie is the only black man. 2014. New York Times. Accessed 2024.

Jackie in this photo demonstrates courage as he is the only black man in the picture

Jackie Robinson with Martin Luther King. 2018. KRUI. Radio. Accessed 2024.

This shows two civil rights advocates fighting for Social Justice for people of all races.

Jackie's Civil Rights accomplishments. Slide Share.Net

Mookie Betts stops a ground ball. 2022. New York Times. Accessed 2023.

Mookie Betts believes that Jackie Robinson was the biggest turning point in History and that he is the reason for African Americans playing baseball.

The Negro Leagues with Jackie Robinson. KSHB.Com.

This is where Jackie Robinson played before the MLB where only black people were allowed to play.

Never Give UP. Pintrest.Com.

This photo reminds people across the country and the world to never give up.

One Black Fountain and One White fountain. ...Vivo.Com

The photo shows how difficult it was for black people before Jackie Robinson because of the practice of segregation major segregation.

Tim Anderson, USA Today.

Tim Anderson says that Jackie Robinson is the reason that he is in MLB. That is why he is important to my project.