“Destroy Every Closet Door”
-Harvey Milk

Riya Kalra  
Junior Division  
Individual Exhibit  
Student-composed words: 499  
Process paper: 500
Annotated Bibliography

Primary Sources:


This book is a compilation of Harvey Milk's speeches and interviews throughout his time in California. These interviews describe his views on the community and provide an idea as to what type of person he was. This book helped me because it gave me direct quotes from him and allowed me to clearly understand exactly what his perspective was on major issues.


This image is of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors from the time Harvey Milk was a supervisor. This image shows the people who were on the board with him. This helped my project because it gave a visual of many of the key people in the story of Harvey Milk.


This is an image of Sharice Davids at a victory party after she was elected to congress in Kansas. This image helped me because it provided a face to go with the quote that I used on my impact section of board.


The specific document I looked at had the complete text of Proposition 6, or the Briggs Initiative. By reading this document I learned the specifics on Proposition 6. The UC Hastings College of the Law website provides legal documents published by the state of California. This helped my project because it allowed me to understand how this affected Harvey Milk and why he was so against the proposition being passed.


This is an image of Lori Lightfoot and her family at her election party. The image helped me because it provided me with a visual representation of how Mayor Lightfoot is able to connect to people.


This is a picture of Mark Takano who is an openly gay congressman in California. This picture helped me because it provided a visual for a quote I used on the impact part of my board.
This is an image of a brochure that was given to voters to persuade them to vote no on Proposition 6. This image helped me because it provided a visual about the iconography that was used to dissuade voters from supporting Senator Briggs.

This article contains an image that shows Mayor Buttigieg and his husband on their wedding day. This image helped me because it provides a visual of Mayor Buttigieg to go along with his historic announcement.

This is an image of Castro Street, the street Harvey Milk lived on when he was in San Francisco, during the 1970s. This image helped me because it provided me with a visual for my timeline.

This image is of President Jimmy Carter and Harvey Milk shaking hands. This image was important because it provided a visual of the fact that Jimmy Carter helped defeat the Briggs Initiative and that he was in support of the work Harvey Milk was doing.

This video is of an interview of John Briggs and Harvey Milk debating Proposition 6. This video helps my project because it allowed me to understand the opinions of both those who supported Proposition 6 and those who opposed it. It also allowed me to look at the difference in opinions between Milk and Briggs.

This is an image of after Harvey Milk was inaugurated on the steps of City Hall surrounded by his supporters. This image shows Milk with some children posing for a photo after his historic victory. This image helped me because it provided me with a visual to go with an event on my timeline and the image also shows how Milk was able to connect with people, including kids.

This source talks about the specific work the Harvey Milk Foundation does and the impact it has had on the LGBTQ+ community. This source allowed me to understand how Harvey Milk has influenced his nephew to carry on his legacy. It also allowed me to understand how Harvey Milk has impacted the lives of countless people and has pushed them to fight against injustice.


This is an image of Mayor Jenny Durkan, the openly lesbian mayor of Seattle. The image is Mayor Durkan's official portrait. This image helped me because it provided a visual to go with a quote on the impact section of my board.


The National Archives is a government agency tasked with preserving important piece of U.S. history. This specific document is a letter from Harvey Milk to President Jimmy Carter asking him to come to California and speak to California about the injustice of the Briggs Initiative. This letter allowed me to understand the outreach of Harvey Milk's message and how many important political figures supported him. I used the image of the letter on the triumph section of my exhibit.


This website contains many famous trials throughout history. This specific article is the transcript of the questioning of Boyd G. Stevens who was the medical examiner and coroner in the investigation of Mayor Moscone and Harvey Milk's death. This source helped me because it allowed me to understand the specifics of how Milk and Mayor Moscone were killed and what had been done to their bodies.


This website contains information on trials throughout history. This specific article is a transcript of Dan White's confession. Reading this helped my project because it allowed me to understand what Dan White thought about his murdering two people. It also gave me a perspective on how Dan White turned the story so that it appeared that he was innocent.


This is an image of Malcolm Kenyatta during a rally. This image helped me because it provided a visual to go with the quote I used in my impact section of the board.

This image shows a memorial to a gay man named Robert Hillsborough after he was brutally murdered by a homophobic man. This image shows how LGBTQ people were treated and allows the impact of Harvey Milk's victory to the LGBTQ population to be amplified.


The specific speech I read was when Harvey Milk announced his candidacy for the Board of Supervisors. I read this source because I wanted to get an idea as to what Milk was promising if he were to be elected. I also wanted to look at the ideas he supported and his political views. Voices of Democracy is a website that has transcript of speeches made by notable figures in history. Reading this helped my project because it allowed me to understand what he was going to accomplish as a board member.


The specific speech I listened to was recorded by Harvey Milk and played at his funeral. I listened to the speech to understand the type of person he was. I wanted to understand what he was personally trying to accomplish in his life. NPR is a public radio service that provides podcasts and news through the radio. This helped my project because it allowed me to gain another perspective on his death.


This image shows Harvey Milk after his successful supervisor campaign that allowed him to become the first openly gay person elected to a political position. This image helped me because it provided me with a view of Milk after his victory.


This image is of a group of women marching during the historic first March on Washington for LGBTQ+ rights. This image helped me because it provided a visual of the group of people who marched and the passion in people as they fought for their rights.


This is an image of Oregon's Governor Kate Brown. The picture is her official portrait. This image helped me because it provided a face to go with a quote on Governor Brown for my impact piece.

This article discusses the Dan White verdict and the public's response to it. The archived newspaper cover is a headline from the day the verdict was announced. This helped my project because it allowed me to understand how the majority of the public disagreed with the ruling and the bloody protests that followed.


This article discusses the horrific murders of Harvey Milk and Mayor Moscone. The newspaper cover provides a primary source that explains the specifics of Milk and Moscone's assassinations while providing relevant images simultaneously. This source helped my project by giving me a view of the day Moscone and Milk were shot.


Los Angeles Public Library Photo Friends is a database that contains images from California's history. This image shows Californians marching against the Briggs Initiative. This image shows the unity of Californians against the Briggs initiative.


This image is of the White House being illuminated in rainbow lights to celebrate the Supreme Court ruling that legalized gay marriage across the country. This image helped me because it provided an image for my timeline and it showed how important the ruling was to so many people.


This image shows the chaos of the White Night Riots. It shows protesters and police clashing under a banner that reads "Stop Attacks on Lesbians & Gays". This image helped my project because it gives a visual representation of how brutal the riots were.


This is an image of Shevrin Jones a Representative in the state of Florida. This image helped me because it provided a visual to go with a quote about Jones on my impact board.

This image shows a very serious Harvey Milk talking to Dan White. This image was important because it provided and idea as to the mood being very serious and tense whenever Milk and White would speak to each other.

*Supervisor Rafael Mandelman. San Francisco Bay Times*, sfbaytimes.com/rafael-mandelman-jeff-sheehy-answer-questions-ahead-district-8-debate/.

This image is of Supervisor Rafael Mandelman. This image helped me because it provided me with a visual to accompany a quote from Mandelman about how Harvey Milk's work impacted his life and career.


This is an image of Tammy Baldwin the openly lesbian U.S. Senator. This image is of her making a speech. This image helped me because it provided a visual to go with a quote about her that I used on the impact part of my board.


This image shows the horrific damage after a flash fire burned down a gay bar in New Orleans. This image allows me to understand the violence most LGBTQ people faced in the 1970's. It also allows me to understand how important Harvey Milk's victory was in bringing hope to the LGBTQ community.


This image shows thousands of people standing outside of city hall to remember Harvey Milk and Mayor Moscone. This image helps my project because it allows for me to understand how many people mourned Harvey Milk and Mayor Moscone.


This picture is of Harvey Milk when he was in the navy. This picture helps me because it provides a visual for my timeline and shows how Harvey Milk looked when he was younger.


This image shows the USNS Harvey Milk in the ocean. This image is important because it shows the national outreach of Milk's work and how he has been awarded with the high honor of having a U.S. Navy ship named after him..

This image is of a pamphlet given to voters to persuade them to vote no on Proposition 6. This image helped me because it provided a visual as to the information voters were given to sway them one way or another.


This image shows the angry protesters destroying City Hall. This destruction comes after the jury's verdict on Dan White's case. Angry citizens stormed city hall to show that they believed the ruling was unfair. The image allows me to truly understand the scope of the damage and the anger of the citizens.


This is an image of a police car on fire during the White Night Riots which took place after the verdict came out. This image helped me because it provided me with a visual for the damage and destruction that took place.


This website talks about Harvey Milk's fight against the Briggs Initiative. There is also a video that shows Harvey Milk and Sally Gearhart talking about Proposition 6. This helped my project because it allowed me to understand Harvey Milk and his supporters view on Proposition 6.

**Secondary Sources:**


This article is a timeline of Wisconsin's role in LGBTQ+ history, specifically the pro-LGBTQ+ legislation they have passed in the past. This article helped me because it provided me with a quote about the historic decisions to protect the LGBTQ+ community from discrimination and legalize relationships between same-sex couples.


This article is about the historic Supreme Court ruling that legalized same-sex marriage across the country. The article talks about the impact of this ruling on the LGBTQ+ community and their reaction to finally being able to receive a marriage license. This article helped me because it provided me with a headline for my legislative impact piece.
This article discusses how modern day San Francisco is remembering Harvey Milk and Mayor Moscone. This article provides valuable quotes from political figures in California about how Milk has affected their political career. This article helped my project because it allowed me to understand how Milk has affected modern day politicians and the work they do for their people.

Bello, Marisol. "Cities Across the USA to Observe Harvey Milk Day." *USA Today*.
This article describes the legacy of Harvey Milk and how in modern times people honor his legacy and what he did to help the LGBTQ+ community. The article describes activists who have drawn inspiration from Milk's work and are continuing his legacy by educating the public on issues concerning the gay community. This resource helped my project because it allowed me to understand his impact after his assassination.

This website is about the Board of Supervisors in California. It explains the role of the members of the Board of Supervisors which is something I was looking for. This source was important because it explained to me what Harvey Milk's role was as a member of the Board of Supervisors and what he did for his district. I learned that the Board of Supervisors responds to the needs of the city and establishes city wide policies. This allowed me to realize the work that Harvey Milk put in while elected.

This article is about the landmark decision by President Obama to end the 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' policy which banned openly LGBTQ+ persons from serving in the U.S. Military. This headline is only another example of how LGBTQ+ activists were able to stand up and fight, urging elected officials to form new legislation. This article helped me because it provided me with another headline for my legislative impact piece.

This article is about Pete Buttigieg and his historic declaration of his intent to run for president. This source helped me because it provided me with a quote about his historic declaration to use on my timeline. This source also helped me because it provided me with insight of his life and work as a mayor and LGBTQ+ activist.
"California Events/ National Events." *KQED*,
This article is a timeline of many important moments in LGBTQ+ history that took place
in California and the country. This article helped me because it provided me with quotes that I
was able to use on my timeline.

"California Proposition 6, the Briggs Initiative (1978)." *BallotPedia*,
May 2019. Raw data.
This data, which I was unable to find anywhere else, is of the result of the voting for
Proposition 6 or the Briggs Initiative. This data helped me because it not only provided me with
an idea of the margins by which Proposition 6 was defeated but also provided me with a visual
table that I was able to use on my board.

Caron, Christina. "In 'Rainbow Wave,' L.G.B.T. Candidates Are Elected in Record Numbers."
This article discusses the huge wave of LGBTQ+ politicians that were elected in 2018.
This article discusses the background of these politicians and also discusses the history of
LGBTQ+ politicians in history. This article helped me because it provided me with a list of all
the modern day LGBTQ+ politicians that I should include on my board and provided me with
quotes for all of them.

Chibbaro, Lou, Jr. "Our History of Marching on Washington." *Washingtonblade*, 11 June 2017,
2019.
This article is a timeline of every time the LGBTQ+ community has marched on
Washington as of now. The article explains each march in depth and also talks about why the
march was significant. This article helped me because it provided me with a quote about the
historic March on Washington in 1979 which was the first ever march on Washington.

This website is overall where people can access biography's on different people. The
specific one I read was about Dan White who was the murderer of Harvey Milk and George
Moscone. By reading this website I was able to understand who Dan White was as a person and
his motive behind killing Milk and Moscone. This article helped my project because it allowed
me to understand what really happened when White killed his former colleagues.

"Dan White gets 7 years and 8 Months in Double Slaying in San Francisco." *The New York
This article is about Dan White, the man who killed Harvey Milk and George Moscone.
The article gives descriptions about White as a person and the trial process. It also talks about the
sentence and the public's response to the ruling. This article helped my project because it allowed
me to gain a better understanding as to what was going on at the time and the public's opinion of
the ruling and the "twinkie defense".
This article talks about the tragic flash fire that burnt down a gay bar in New Orleans. The article talks about how the fire affected the gay community at the time. This article helped because it provided me with a quote about the flash fire that I used in the background part of my board to explain the hate and homophobia the LGBTQ+ population faced.

Durkan, Jenny Anne. E-mail interview. 29 May 2019.
This interview of Seattle Mayor Jenny A. Durkan which I conducted, provided valuable information and a new perspective on my project from an openly LGBTQ+ politician. Mayor Durkan not only gave information I couldn't find anywhere else, but was able to give her own personal opinion about how Harvey Milk's work affected her as a politician. This source is biased.

This personal interview of Dr. Lillian Faderman, an esteemed author and LGBTQ+ advocate provided vital information for my project. She provided me with information that I was unable to find anywhere else and gave me valuable insight. She also provided me with her opinions on crucial matters and although biased provided me with a new view of my topic.

This book is a biography if Harvey Milk's life. Based on interviews of family and friends, the book gives specific details about his life. This book helped on my project because it gave more details about Milk's personal life and his journey to becoming a politician.

This article discusses the work Harvey Milk did while he was on the board of supervisors and the work he did in Castro when he was just a resident. This website also contains images and short documentaries that contain information about his time as a supervisor. The article helped my project because it gave a view on what people today think about Harvey Milk and it provided me with valuable images.

This article is an opinion piece about the reason behind Harvey Milk's and Mayor Moscone's assassinations. The author discusses how Milk was killed because he was gay and Moscone was killed because he was a friend and supporter of LGBTQ+ rights. This article helped me because it provided me with a valuable quote about why Milk and Mayor Moscone were killed. The article is biased.

Reel American History is a site dedicated to analyzing and providing context for major historical films. A movie in 2008 was released about the life of Harvey Milk called "Milk", and this article provides accurate historical facts regarding Harvey Milk to provide context for the movie. This site allowed me to learn more about Harvey Milk's childhood and provided me with a valuable quote about Harvey Milk's assassination.


This article was on the front page of the New York Times paper on December 4, 1996. The article is about how a Hawaii judge ruled to end the gay-marriage ban in Hawaii. This article helped me because it provided an example of how Harvey Milk's assassination pushed the LGBTQ+ community and their allied to demand new judicial decisions and legislation.


This is an article that discusses the abolition of the use of the "Twinkie Defense" in California. This article is important because it allows me to see that the people of California understood that an injustice was done when Dan White got away with murder and they worked to help prevent things like it from happening in the future. This article helped me because it provided me with a quote about what exactly was passed and how so many people supported it.


Remember Them is a website that is dedicated to commemorating the lives of deceased heroes. The specific article I read was about the life of Harvey Milk. The specific information I pulled from the article was about Milk's childhood and his relationship with his parents. This information is important to my project because understanding Harvey's early life allows me to understand why he moved to San Francisco and possibly what pushed him to become a civil activist.


This website is dedicated to commemorating the life of Harvey Milk. Through this website I was able to find an extensive timeline of the major events in his life, many of which I quoted in my own timeline. This article helped me because it provided me with a deeper understanding about the events that took place in Milk's life and specific dates that correspond with them.

This article is a timeline with many events in Harvey Milk's life. This article helped me because it provided me with quotes for my timeline so that I could showcase Harvey Milk's life. It also allowed me to place his life in context to the time period.


The image shows Harvey Milk leading the crowd during the gay pride parade. This image shows his involvement in the community and his willingness to lead. It also shows how many people in California were against the Briggs Initiative as can be seen by the signs the people are holding in the background.


This is the image of the Forever Stamp that Harvey Milk was commemorated on in 2014. This image is important because it allows me to talk about the legacy Harvey Milk left behind. This image also shows how he is recognized as such an important figure that he was honored with his own postal stamp.


This image shows Harvey Milk on the campaign trail talking to people outside of a local grocery store. This image helped my project because it allowed people to see the type of person he was and how he was always working to spread his message. It also shows how friendly he was with everyone he met and how he was able to connect to the people around him.


This is a valuable image of Harvey Milk's inauguration. It is a visual representation of the historic day Harvey Milk was elected and it gives an understanding as to what happened at his inauguration. It shows how the people of California really supported him and how he was seen as an inspiration and someone to be followed.


This news article discusses the Time article in which Harvey Milk was included as one of the 100 most influential people in the world. This website provided me with a quote from the managing editor of Time magazine which allowed me to better understand the logic with which Harvey Milk was placed on their list.

SF Gay History is a website which provides an overview of the rich LGBTQ+ culture in the San Francisco area. The article I read was specifically about the historic Castro Street Fair. I read this article because Castro Street was the center of Harvey Milk's life and political campaign. I needed to have a better understanding about the fair Harvey Milk started and why it was so important in the overall history of LGBTQ+ rights. This helped my project because it allowed for me to better understand the center of Harvey Milk's life.


This article is about Jenny Durkan's election as the first lesbian mayor Seattle has ever had and the first female mayor in over 90 years. The article also talks about Durkan's election and the impact it had on the LGBTQ+ community. This article helped me because it provided me with a quote about Durkan's election that I used on the impact portion of my board.


This article discusses Pete Buttigieg and how he is able to connect to the LGBTQ+ community by sharing personal stories. This article helped me because it gave me a quote that shows how Mayor Buttigieg feels about running for president.


This article talks about Cleve Jones, a close friend of Harvey Milk's and a fellow LGBTQ+ activist. In this article, written by Jones himself, he talks about Harvey Milk as a person, and what it was like when he was murdered. This article helped because it provided me with the insight of a person who was very close to Milk and is had multiple valuable quotes.


This article talks about Harvey Milk's and President Jimmy Carter's relationship and how Milk was able to convince President Carter to tell voters to vote no on Proposition 6. This article helped me because it provided me with a quote from President Carter about Proposition 6. This article also shows how far Harvey Milk reached in order to defeat Proposition 6.

Famous Trials is a website that documents famous trials throughout history. This specific article talks about exactly how Dan White's attorney spun the trial so that the jury would immediately lean in White's favor. This article helped my project because it provided valuable quotes from the attorney and provided an in depth explanation of what happened in the trial.


This article from USA Today discusses the monumental victory for the LGBTQ+ community when Lori Lightfoot was elected as mayor of Chicago. This article provided me with a quote from Mayor Lightfoot on how her victory has impacted the community. This article helped me because it gave me a first person view as to how LGBTQ+ politicians feel about their victory.


This article is about the Matthew Shepard Act, which was legislation passed in 2009 which extended federal hate-crime laws to the LGBTQ+ community. This article helped me because it provided an example of the impact Harvey Milk's death had on the LGBTQ+ community and the push for new Pro-LGBTQ+ legislation that took place.


This article discusses Harvey Milk and his work to defeat Proposition 6, or the Briggs Initiative. The article talks about the numerous political figures that supported Harvey, most importantly, former President Ronald Raegan. This article helped my project because it provided me with a quote about Raegan's point of view.


This is an article about Mark Takano who made history as the first openly gay Asian American elected to congress. This article talks about how important his victory is for not only the LGBTQ+ community but the Asian community as well. This article helped me because it provided me with a quote about Takano that I was able to use on my impact board.

This article by Annie Murphy, provides an accurate summary of the Briggs Initiative and how Harvey Milk worked tirelessly to defeat it, enlisting the help of numerous former Presidents. This article helped me because it provided me with an understanding of Proposition 6 and it provided me with a quote about Harvey Milk's work.


This article discusses the importance of the U.S. Navy naming a ship after Harvey Milk honor his service. This article helped me because it provided me with another view about how people were honoring him nationally and it had a quote that I used on my timeline to showcase this incredible honor.


Milk Foundation is a website which is the home of the Harvey Milk Foundation. The specific page I looked at was a biography on the overall life of Harvey Milk. By reading this article I learned about Harvey Milk’s overall life and what he accomplished during the time he was alive. It also allowed me to become familiar with someone who I did not know much about. For my project this was a starting point for my research in the way that my reading this article I was able to ask questions that expanded my vision for the project.


This article interviews the people who were close to Harvey Milk and were closely touched by his work. This piece mainly discusses how Milk impacted those in the Jewish community of the San Francisco area. This article helped my project by allowing me to understand how Milk never forgot his roots and was always able to help those in his community.


This article is a short account of a gay politician and her political journey, more specifically, how Harvey Milk's victory affected her career. This account helped my project because it allowed me to understand exactly how politicians were affected by Milk's victory and how they drew inspiration from his work.

This article is an account of a gay person growing up in the 1970's and experiencing the profound impact Harvey Milk had on members of the LGBT+ community throughout the nation. He discusses his life and the great prejudice he faced through his life and what Harvey Milk's work did for him personally. This helped my project because it allowed me to understand how Harvey Milk's work helped common people. This source was biased because the author is gay and therefore the article was opinionated.


This website discusses the specifics of Proposition 6. It provides me with a better understanding not only of what Proposition 6 was about but also about what Californians thought about the proposition. This helped my project because it provided me with a quote about Proposition 6.


This article is about how the LGBTQ+ community continued Harvey Milk's legacy and fought for their rights. This article is about how the gay community fought to end police brutality and won. This helps my project because it allows me to understand the specific victories won by the gay community even though one of their biggest leaders was dead.


This article discusses the Briggs Initiative and connects it to modern day issues regarding LGBT rights. This source helped my project because it gave a different perspective of the initiative. It also allowed me to understand that the horrors of the Briggs Initiative haven't been forgotten.


This article discusses the immense victory of having numerous gay and lesbian people win in a political position and the passing of a law that allows for gay people to become domestic partners. This article talks about how all of this is because of the foundation Harvey Milk laid for them. This article helped me because it provided me with quotes about Harvey Milk's local impact.
San Franciscans gather on 40th anniversary of Harvey Milk, George Moscone assassinations.  

This article discusses how civilians remembered Harvey Milk and Mayor Moscone on the 40th anniversary of their assassinations. The article discusses how the mayor and other political figures and relatives remembered Milk and Moscone. It includes valuable videos with the speeches of many notable figures. This helps my project because it allows me to understand how people today are honoring his legacy and how even forty years after his death, Harvey Milk still live in the hearts of many.


The Savage Lovecast is a podcast that is produced by Dan Savage, an LGBTQ+ advocate who lives in the greater Seattle area. In this specific episode Savage starts with a clip from one of Harvey Milk's speech. Savage then goes on to talk about how Harvey Milk impacted his life and gave him hope. This clip helped me because it perfectly aligns with the angle I am taking on my project.


This article discusses the impact Harvey Milk's work had on modern day LGBTQ+ politicians specifically, Rafael Madelman, who currently holds Milk's seat. This article helped me because it provided me with a quote from Madelman about Harvey Milk and his impact that provided another view point.


This article discusses the White Night Riots which were the riots in response to Milk's assassination and the court ruling on Dan White. The article describes how thousands of members of the LGBTQ+ community took to the street to protest. However, it soon became violent and thousands of dollars worth of property was destroyed. This helped my project because it allowed me to understand the public's opinion on the court ruling.


This source explores the response to the White Night Riots, specifically how the firefighters responded. This helps my project because it allows me to understand the extent of the destruction that was caused by protesters. It also provides me with the opinion of those who had to fix all that was destroyed.

Stuart Milk is the nephew of Harvey Milk and is working everyday to continue his uncle's legacy. This website discusses the life of Harvey Milk and how the Harvey Milk Foundation is continuing Harvey's life's work. This article helped my project because it allowed me to better understand how those who were close to Harvey Milk were able to continue his work.

*Supervisor Milk and Mayor Moscone. NPR*, 26 Nov. 2008,

This image portrays Mayor Moscone and Supervisor Milk. This image shows Milk and Moscone's friendship along Harvey Milk's personality and attitude.

"Twinkie Defense." *Legal Information Institute*, Cornell Law School,

The Legal Information Institute is free legal information provided by Cornell Law School. The specific article I read was about the Twinkie defense, called so because of the defense argued by Dan White, the man who killed Harvey Milk and George Moscone. This article explained exactly what the Twinkie defense is and how it was used after Milk and Moscone were assassinated by Dan White. This article helped me on my project because it allowed me to understand what legally happened in order for Dan White to get away with manslaughter instead of murder.


This article talks about Kyrsten Sinema and her historic election as the only bisexual person elected to the senate. This article discusses her elections impact on the LGBTQ+ community. This article helped me because it provided me with a quote that I used on the impact section of my board.

Zezima, Katie. "Harvey Milk honored with postage stamp." *The Washington Post*, 22 May 2014,

This article discusses the importance of a postage stamp being created with Harvey Milk on it. This article helped me because it gave me another perspective on how people are remembering him. The article also provided me with a valuable quote.
Process Paper

After gaining an understanding for this years’ theme, Triumph and Tragedy, I began considering a topic on LGBTQ+ rights. The LGBTQ+ community has struggled through immense tragedy, but I have heard many stories of people rising and fighting back. My teacher suggested I consider Harvey Milk. After doing some initial research to better understand who Harvey Milk was, I immediately became intrigued. How was it possible that Milk was murdered, and the killer got only seven-years in prison? How did people see his murder as not just a tragedy, but as a source of inspiration to keep fighting and not be silenced?

Research for my project was initially done online through newspapers, articles and historical archives. I was able to make a trip to the University of Washington research libraries to find additional resources including multiple primary sources and two books; a compilation of Milk’s speeches and a biography. Finally, I conducted multiple interviews including one with Dr. Lillian Faderman, an activist for LGBTQ+ rights and author. A powerful source was the audio clip Milk recorded before his assassination. Milk discusses how the LGBTQ+ movement is more important than his life. The major difficulty I had with research was deciding which angle to take. First, I debated focusing more on the tragic abuse gays faced and Harvey Milk’s triumphant victory. Then I debated focusing on Dan White and how he affected the justice system. Ultimately, I chose to look at Milk’s life as an inspiration because it provides the most impactful view of Harvey Milk’s work. Another struggle was that I wasn’t able to watch the critically acclaimed movie “Milk” because my parents wouldn’t allow me to watch an R-rated movie.

I selected an exhibit for my project because I am a very visual person and I believed the end result would be the most impactful. When designing my board, I felt that it was necessary to use pink because of the prominence of the pink triangles as a symbol of gay pride in the 1970s before the rainbow flag. I also chose gold to represent Harvey Milk as an extremely charismatic person. As my project evolved from Regionals to Nationals, I continued to expand on Harvey Milk’s impact on future generations.

Harvey Milk’s life and work is a perfect representation of the NHD theme of Triumph and Tragedy. This is because Harvey Milk’s victory as the first out gay person to be elected into a political position in the U.S.A. was a huge triumph for the LGBTQ+ community in a time of homophobia. Milk triumphantly defeated Proposition 6, a homophobic proposal that would prevent gay teachers and their supporters from working in school. However, Milk was tragically assassinated, and his killer Dan White was not brought to justice. Yet from this immense tragedy came the triumph of countless LGBTQ+ politicians carrying forward Milk’s work and legacy and the continuation of the LGBTQ+ movement. Milk’s work continues to be an inspiration, showing that fighting for equality is the American spirit.