

Martin Luther and the Reformation

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Junior Division
Individual Exhibit

Process Paper

Why I chose this topic:

Last year, I researched Johann Gutenberg which led me to learn about the Renaissance and the Reformation. After going to the state competition, I did additional research on the influence of the printing press in contributing to the Reformation and learned about Martin Luther. Luther and his influence seemed very interesting and I wanted to learn more. Also, since I had a good knowledge of the early history of Europe from my Gutenberg project, I decided to build on that and chose to research Martin Luther and the Reformation.

How I conducted my research:

First, I went on the Internet at school. I then consulted a librarian at my school and got two very useful books. I took notes on those sources. I then outlined my ideas on large flip-chart paper. After doing that I learned that I needed much more information to continue. I went to the electronic encyclopedia on my computer at home and printed out every topic I needed more information on. I went to a public library. I also conducted an interview with our minister to be able to discuss my developing ideas. Next, I interviewed a research librarian at the Illiff School of Theology and acquired primary sources. There were a lot of these. They helped me understand why Luther's impact on society was so great. I immediately started my annotated bibliography so it would not be left until the last minute. Again, but with much more information now, I laid out key ideas on flip charts and started planning my exhibit.

How I created and developed my exhibit:

I prepared one flip chart that outlined events before Martin Luther, another that outlined events after Luther, and the last one, events that occurred during the lifetime of Luther. I then made a draft of the timeline, text and picture captions that I was going

to use on my board. Then I typed up the text and printed it out in the size and font I needed for the exhibit. I experimented with different boards, and found one that would be wonderful. I laid everything out on my board as a "draft." I condensed the information down so everything would fit, tell the story I wanted to tell and meet the criteria for NHD. Finally, I glued everything down. I then outlined my oral presentation and practiced it in front of my parents.

How my project relates to the theme:

My project relates to the theme in several ways. My project focuses on Martin Luther--a person, yet, when you learn about Luther, it is directly tied in with an event--posting the 95 Theses, and the Protestant Reformation--an idea. It is also a turning point in history. If Martin Luther and other reformers had not taken action, there might not be all of the different religions we know today. The primary religion in Europe and in the New World might still be Roman Catholicism.

(495 words)