

When I first heard the theme for this year was Breaking Barriers in History, I had no clue what topic I was going to choose. The day that I found out the topic I went home, and started researching trying to find a topic that interested me. I looked through almost 100 topics, and still didn't know what I wanted to do. That's when I went and talked to my mom who told me that she had just read a book about the Radium Girls that she thought was interesting. I started looking into it, and decided that I was going to choose that as my topic.

One day in school towards the start of our NHD project we went into the library where we were shown some helpful sources that might give us information on our topics. I thought that it was great, until I went onto the databases and searched my topic. I found nothing, none of the databases had any information about my topic. This was upsetting at first, but I continued to look for secondary sources. I found lots of good information on many different sources, but I was still struggling to find primary sources. There weren't many pictures for my topic, and I struggled to find the ones I got. Then one day in social studies I was talking to Mr. Johnson, and he told me that I should try and see if there was a transcript of the actual court case that I could get. I started looking, and ended up finding one. That helped me a lot, because it gave me new facts that I hadn't learned yet.

From the start of NHD I knew that I wanted to make a website. I had never made a website before, and thought that it would be a good challenge for me. Once I had all of my research done I knew that making a website was a good idea. I had a lot of information, and thought that putting all the information into a small amount for an exhibit would not be the best idea for my topic. Once I started making my website I found it to be a lot harder than I originally thought. It was challenging to figure out what all the different blocks to build your website did, and putting it together to make it look good.

The Radium Girls worked at the U.S. Radium Corporation in 1936, painting watches with luminous paint. They didn't know that their bones were slowly deteriorating because of the radium that they were ingesting. The company however knew that the paint was toxic and didn't warn the girls before they started working. The girls took them to court, and won their case after many court cases. This helped form OSHA to protect all workers rights. They also helped form new laws for workers in New Jersey, stating that now all employers had to warn their employees about anything that might be potentially harmful.