The Internet: Creating Connections through Barriers

Adam Abdelrahman, Tyler Chan, Lucas Couch

Senior Group Website

1200 Student Composed Words

Process Paper Contains 499 Words

Media Time 3:36

Process Paper

Most of society today was formed based on connection. One of the biggest and most influential connection technologies in the modern world is the internet. Modern culture has been defined by the internet while most of the world relies on the internet for commerce and trade. Pre-existing barriers of space and time have been shattered by the internet. Online shopping, online payment, and online school are all functions that would not be available without the internet. All these factors led us to choose the internet as our research topic to better understand the history of a defining factor of modern society.

For our topic, we used multiple different mediums to create a well-balanced research body, including digital and hardcopy books, interviews, documentaries, and websites. Due to the nature of our topic, we noticed the many ways that the internet has influenced the research game. We used many online sources, such as the *Encyclopedia Britannica* website, as well as hardcopy books, such as *Weaving the Web: The Original Design and Ultimate Destiny of the World Wide Web by Its Inventor* by Tim Berners-Lee and Mark Fischetti. Because this was co-authored by a creator of the World Wide Web, it helped provide a firsthand account of the processes of the internet. In addition, we used interviews of Tim Berners-Lee and Robert Cailliau to show the creators' perspective of the World Wide Web.

We chose to create a website because it seemed like this category could convey the information on our topic more clearly than the other categories as well as serve as a piece of our topic. We then searched for sources that contained any perspectives on our topic in order to create a well-rounded pool of information. This step caused some trouble because of the lack of hardcopy and primary source research available on the history of the internet. However, there were many archive sources that could provide information on the Berlin Wall and globalization,

both topics that we related to the internet. The biggest issue came with formatting that research into the 1200-word limit. We resolved this by separating our research into sections and focusing on brevity while still conveying the main points and created a timeline from our research.

Our topic relates to the NHD theme in many ways. Our project explores the newfound interconnection of the world on an international scale as a result of the internet. It shows the history behind tense government relationships in the face of nuclear threats leading to information barriers that would be broken by the internet. We related our topic to the modern globalization system as well as past social customs and values to demonstrate the effects of the internet. Our topic included modern barriers such as government censorship in China as well as past barriers like information restrictions imposed by the Soviet Union. We related to the idea of breaking barriers by painting a comparison between today's era and the Cold War era to show the effect of the internet.