

The Great Society: Bringing Social Classes Together

Joyce Wang, Jenna Tran, and Elle Dykstra

Senior Division

Group Website

We decided on this topic because of what it ultimately represents. Lyndon B Johnson put effort into creating a better society for the United States. This includes racial injustices, poverty, and many other things. We as a group value and support the main ideas of what the Great Society created and represented. The most interesting thing we found about our topic was the progressive ideas that Lyndon B Johnson wanted to integrate into the United States. For example, his Project Head Start Program, an eight-week period where lower-class students got an opportunity to acquire skills and experiences important for school success, was something that no president has ever done due to costs. Bills and laws such as these were very unique and quite fun to research about.

Our research was primarily based around the bills implemented during this period. Dividing these bills into certain categories, such as education, environment, healthcare, and other significant subcategories helped a lot as we figured out which themes were the most interesting and relevant to the topic. One website that was our ultimate go-to was the *Digital Public Library of America*, as they had amazing primary sources of what happened during that era. These included political cartoons, documents, bills, and even audio recordings of past interviews. These sources were extremely reliable as this website essentially collected them from public libraries within notable and esteemed universities.

For our project, we chose to make a website as we are most familiar with web design and creation. With using a website, we are able to edit quickly and make changes without having to all be together. We valued not having to meet up due to the pandemic we're in currently. Creating a website is also much more time efficient and produces a modern product. The advantages given by making a website will help us reach our goal of making a well structured project while also

staying safe. Additionally, it will help further our knowledge of technology and guide us through an important aspect of our digitizing world. Therefore, the best choice for our project was building a website.

Our project relates to the NHD theme through the topic of diplomacy, domestic diplomacy to be exact. While diplomacy is the interactions between two representative groups with differing beliefs that result in working together, domestic diplomacy requires these two groups and interactions to be within a country. This can be shown through Lyndon B Johnson's interactions with the past Republican Party, striving to improve their current society. Throughout the initiatives taken for the Great Society, these laws and bills were always to improve the well-being of United States citizens, whether it be by reducing discrimination or improving lower-class conditions. These were approved by both the president and the political party, even if they had differing beliefs, hence why the topic of the Great Society fits this theme so well. These policies slowly improved our internal affairs and made our societal standards what they are today.