

Rachel Carson

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Individual Website

Student word count: 1,273

Process Paper: 438 words

I knew very little about Rachel Carson before my project. I recognized her name and the title of her book, *Silent Spring*. I was interested in women's rights and science, and these interests led me to start my history fair project on Lise Meitner. I began research and found that there was very little information on her, and I found that the topic didn't suit me very well. My mom suggested that I switch my project to Rachel Carson and explained how she changed the way we view the environment, and I agreed to change my topic.

I began by reading Rachel Carson's famous book, *Silent Spring*. I loved the first chapter, the most famous part where she describes a perfect world in which pesticides become the unseen menace. Then I found some biographies and similar articles online and took notes on what I found. I gathered a variety of sources, both primary and secondary. I watched a PBS documentary on Rachel Carson as well, which I found very educational and entertaining.

I went through a long debate to choose my category. I originally wanted to do an exhibit board, but I knew that the smaller word limit would be a struggle for me. After debating pros and cons, I eventually decided on a website because I am relatively good with computers and I would have a higher word limit while still incorporating some creativity with website design. I began creating my project by taking my visual sources and sorting them by page and then by heading. This helped me to begin visualizing my website. My next step was to write and edit my analysis to be more concise and refined. After I had my elements complete and organized, I began to build my website one page at a time and plug in the elements as I went. My last step was to link my process paper and my bibliography and revise.

My project perfectly fits the theme of Breaking Barriers. Rachel Carson realized that DDT and synthetic pesticides posed a great danger to both humans and the environment, regardless of how many times the chemical industry denied these claims. This denial created a barrier between the public and the truth about chemicals and synthetic pesticides. When Rachel Carson brought this information to light by writing and publishing *Silent Spring*, she challenged the benevolence of corporations and the authenticity of science, and she changed the public's view of our relationship with the environment. Carson broke this barrier, so that we no longer see ourselves as apart from nature, but as a part of nature.