

Calling The Shots:
Taking A Stand Against The Speckled Monster

Junior Category

Group Website

Student-Composed Words: 1198

Process Paper Words: 497

Video Length: 3:56

We chose our topic because of a previous interview Alex conducted. Alex asked a question about disease eradication to the doctor he was interviewing, and he said that smallpox was the only eradicated disease today. Alex found the topic very interesting and decided to do it the next year he did NHD. Sophie also found this topic interesting and decided she wanted to work with Alex.

To conduct our research, we used many different resources. For our initial research, we used the internet, but we made sure that we were using credible websites, such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, World Health Organization, and National Institute of Health websites. One of our most important sources was Dr. William Foege's book, *House on Fire: the Fight to Eradicate Smallpox*. In addition, we interviewed Vincent Radke, a member of the Peace Corps that fought smallpox in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Bangladesh. He gave us valuable insight into the world of smallpox, as well as a book titled *Smallpox Zero*, that had many strong quotes and pictures. Vincent Radke also gave us a training video that showed smallpox victims and doctors working against the disease. His stories, the book, and the smallpox video were all very strong sources that were used throughout our website. We took a trip to the National Archives in Atlanta, Georgia, where we found many primary resources, such as other smallpox eradication strategies. We also went to the Centers for Disease Control and the David J. Sencer Museum, where we gathered many pictures and primary sources from the time when smallpox was abundant. These trips and sources were very important in learning about smallpox, Dr. William Foege, and the eradication of smallpox.

We chose the website category because we both like to write, are creative, and are strong at design. With the website category we were able to use all of our strengths. Also, the 1200 word limit was larger than the other possible categories, enabling us to write more and be creative. We chose to be in the group category because we both are more productive in groups, and we collaborate well together. Alex is very detail-oriented while Sophie is strong at looking at the bigger picture.

Our topic fits with the National History Day theme because Dr. William Foege took a stand by eradicating one of the world's most dangerous diseases. He created ring vaccination, a

system that contained and controlled outbreaks much faster than mass vaccination and herd immunity. Dr. Foege not only caused a turning point in the smallpox eradication program, but his idea eventually helped the containment of other diseases, such as ebola. The road to eradication was a very bumpy one, but because Dr. William Foege took a stand against smallpox, the world is a much healthier and safer place. By helping to eradicate smallpox, Dr. Foege not only took a stand against smallpox, but he also took the first step to eradicating disease as we know it today.

