

“The All-American Girls Professional
Baseball League: A Home Run for
Gender Equality Efforts”

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Process Paper

To determine our topic, we wanted to choose something that we are both interested in and broke a barrier we felt important. The AAGPBL fits both categories, breaking the gender barrier and being a league for a sport we both understand and enjoy. We thought this topic fit the theme better than anything else we could have picked so it made sense to pick it.

For our research, we started by looking at the website for the league (aagpbl.com). This provided us with a solid base of information. We proceeded to look at articles and interviews with former players or people would be good for primary sources. There are lots of interviews with former players of the league since a decent amount of them are still around or had been interviewed while they were alive. These interviews gave us a better understanding of the AAGPBL through first-hand information. There is also a lot of information on the Baseball Hall of Fame website about the history of the league, along with specific stories about some players. After finishing our project we got feedback from our peers

We made a website for our NHD project. When we were deciding what category to present our information in, we considered what format would be the most organized and allow us to be creative. It was easier to use this format because we were able to work on it separately and not worry about forgetting it anywhere because it was online. Given the convenience and creative opportunity a website gave us, it was the best option and therefore we decided to use it.

Our project relates to the NHD theme “breaking barriers” because the AAGPBL was a baseball league for women, who at the time were primarily home to cook and clean and care for the children. When WWII started and men were leaving for war, positions began to open up at jobs, but also in the entertainment business. There was concern that too many men would leave and the major league baseball would suffer. This led to the creation of the AAGPBL which opened up sports to women and gave them an opportunity to play in front of large amounts of people. It was proof that women could compete in a sport typically played by men and still draw large crowds and therefore revenue.