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Arthur Ashe: A Leader On & Off The Court

Junior Individual Website

Process Paper

As a tennis player, I have a keen interest, not only in playing the sport, but in the history of it. I had previously been to the U.S. Open and noticed the flags that bore Arthur Ashe's name and the large stadium named after him. I asked my dad, "Who is this man? Why is he so famous?" At the time, I hadn't realized the significance of what my dad, who is a huge tennis fan, had to say. Once I saw the theme for this year's contest, however, and my dad mentioned Arthur Ashe I was immediately interested.

I started my research at the Dean College library, but with not much luck there, I started looking online for videos, speeches, pictures, and websites. As I researched the work and activism of Arthur Ashe, I realized that in order to put his work in perspective, I needed to understand the context of race relations, civil rights and the movement for racial equality in the United States and Apartheid in South Africa. I then went to the Franklin Public Library and found several books - both primary and secondary resources - that were very helpful in my research. After starting my website, I sent emails and interview requests to important figures relating to my topic, as well as an email to the Tennis Hall of Fame. I contacted Professor Eric Allen Hall, who was incredibly helpful. He gave me great suggestions, and shared some of his research material. I also had a productive email conversation with Meredith Miller and a phone conversation with Art Carrington. For the State and National rounds, I edited my website according to judge's feedback.

I chose to create a website entry because I enjoy designing and building websites. Also, since I had a lot to share about Arthur Ashe, a website seemed like a good choice because I could include multiple aspects of him with multimedia, pictures, and quotes, along with my original words. I continued to work on the website, little by little, throughout the time allotted.

The more I researched Arthur Ashe, the more I was convinced that he was a great subject for this theme. Arthur Ashe fits the theme of leadership and legacy because of everything he achieved in his life. By becoming a champion in a segregated sport, Ashe forever marked his name in history. His triumphs in tennis, along with his activism, and his struggle against AIDS, have left a legacy of fighting discrimination and showing courage in the face of difficulty.

Arthur Ashe was a leader on and off the court in many ways. He won numerous tennis tournaments, led the US Davis Cup team as a player and

captain, campaigned against apartheid, protested against the mistreatment of Haitian immigrants, spoke out against discrimination in a number of different ways. He also worked for the betterment of underprivileged black youth and was a shining role model for all Americans.

Word Count: 491