

The American Government's Responsibility in Health Care: The Chronic Debate

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Individual Website

Process Paper

Over the past year, I have become increasingly interested in American politics. Also, I have always viewed the study of history as imperative for understanding current events. For my project this year, I wanted to choose a topic that would show how history has impacted a topic that is relative today. Health care and the government's responsibility in health insurance has been a debate popularized by the passage of the Affordable Care Act, but the history behind the issue is discussed much less. Therefore, I decided to complete a project concerning how the debate of the rights and responsibilities involved in health care evolved to the controversy today.

When I was first considering creating a project concerning health care, I had the opportunity to meet Andy Dean, Sean Hannity, and Herman Cain at an event in Jacksonville. Knowing that my project would have a section on the controversy over the government's role in health care today, I conducted an informal interview with them based off of interview questions I had created especially for my project. I completed most of my research online. When creating my website, the Library of Congress and The New York Times websites were especially helpful in my research. The New York Times archives allowed me to understand the public reactions toward events as they were occurring, making it a useful supply of primary sources.

I chose to create a website for my project because a website would allow me to use text, pictures, video, and audio to create a clear and detailed presentation. Also, it was simple to organize my website. Creating pages and subpages helped support this organization, which was easy to do in the NHD Weebly editor. I found creating a website to be an effective way of keeping all of the information on my website neat and easy to follow.

My project relates to the NHD theme, "Rights and Responsibilities in History," because the debate surrounding the government's involvement in health care and health insurance is based on perceptions of human rights, government rights, and government responsibility. Throughout the 20th century, controversy has been sparked by this topic due to disagreements on whether or not it is the government's responsibility to provide health insurance in the United States, and whether health care is a human right or a responsibility of the individual to obtain health care or health insurance through his or her own means.