

Alain Locke: A Powerful Catalyst of Change

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Individual Website

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I knew I wanted to do a project related to civil rights because the history of the movement interests me and is something still very relevant today. I didn't want my project to be a basic civil rights movement report, as I knew that would be a popular topic to relate to breaking barriers. Once I settled on the Harlem Renaissance, my teachers urged me to pick an individual to narrow my project down. I chose to focus my project on Alain Locke specifically because he did not show up during my initial research about the Harlem Renaissance. I was interested to know who he was and why he wasn't as well known as other figures of the Harlem Renaissance. As I did more background research I learned he played a crucial role in the Harlem Renaissance as well as many artists careers.

My research started with learning basic background information on the Harlem Renaissance and the historical context of it. After this, I started to focus on Alain Locke himself and how he influenced the Harlem Renaissance. I researched his book, *The New Negro*, and some of the artists and authors included in it. I read numerous manuscripts and articles written by Harlem Renaissance authors and analyzed several different art pieces. I read accounts of artists Alain Locke helped promote and I saw the ways he impacted people's lives. I looked for documents and pictures on the Library of Congress website and other historical sites. I read several plays and short stories from the Harlem Renaissance so I could have a broader knowledge of the time period.

As my research was coming to an end I decided that a website would be the best format to display the work I've done. I knew that I would be able to make a website that got my point across and was technically sound. I spent some time learning how to use the website builder but it got easier as I spent more time using it. I liked the idea of a website because you could put pictures and multimedia on it for readers to learn from.

While developing my project, I kept the theme of breaking barriers in mind. There were several barriers that Alain Locke broke through his role in the Harlem Renaissance. He allowed African Americans to see themselves in American culture and have pride in their own culture. Without Locke, the Harlem Renaissance would not have been as big and influential as it was. Locke promoted art that had never been seen in America, art that was from Africa and familiar to some African Americans but otherwise new. It was by promoting African art that Locke influenced the most.