Shirley Chisholm: The Good Fight

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Junior Division Individual Documentary Process Paper: 496 words While I was in Washington D.C. for NHD Nationals 2019, I visited the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture. There was an exhibit dedicated to Shirley Chisholm and a poster from her 1972 Presidential race caught my eye. The heading of the poster stated "Unbought and Unbossed" with a picture of her. I began to research more and I came across a quote that she stated in the 1970s, "if they don't give you a seat at the table bring a folding chair." The inclusion of underrepresented people in politics and the business sector is still a barrier we face today in 2020. I knew that her candidness and fighting spirit would be a great topic to show breaking barriers in America.

I used both primary and secondary sources to conduct research for my documentary on Shirley Chisholm. I started by researching her early life, education, and entry into politics. The sources that I used from the Library of Congress, periodicals, film, news interviews, and many other government websites helped to build my historical context. I obtained footage from her Presidential Announcement in 1971, Democratic National Convention, her first year in Congress and her posthumous Presidential Medal of Freedom ceremony and other sources that were helpful in my research. I had several important primary sources including Representative Sheila Jackson Lee and political strategist Donna Brazile. They provided firsthand knowledge of Chisholm's struggles and her guts to overcome these barriers. My personal interview with U.S. Representative Hank Johnson was significant in understanding the lasting effect and legacy that Chisholm left for future minority politicians. He discussed his current role in the Congressional Black Caucus, an organization that Chisholm co-founded in 1971.

I chose to do a documentary because I believe it was the best way to capture "Fighting Shirley's" spirit. Her words and speeches during her historical run were powerful. I wanted to show her life and legacy through videos, audios, and photos.

My documentary, Shirley Chisholm: The Good Fight heavily relates to the theme, breaking barriers. Chisholm became the first black congresswoman in 1968 and the first African American and woman to run for president from a major party, the Democratic party in 1972. At that time, women were fighting for equal rights and African Americans were still fighting to end legalized disenfranchisement, racial discrimination, and segregation in The United States. She focused on politics to help improve the lives of poorer citizens, women, children, and minorities. Chisholm introduced more than 50 pieces of legislation and championed racial and gender equality. Her outspoken advocacy for women and minorities allowed her to serve seven terms in the U.S. House of Representatives. She was considered double-handicapped, black, and a woman. However, she never let racist and sexist opposition stop her. Shirley Chisholm said, "I am and always will be a catalyst for change." She did just that, changing the way people thought about African Americans and women, not only in government but also in America.

Annotated Bibliography

Primary Sources

Personal Interview

Johnson, Hank. Interview. Conducted by Temple Lester, 18 February 2020. Hank Johnson is a

Representative in the United States' Congress, representing Georgia's 4th congressional district.

During my time interviewing Rep. Hank Johnson, he told me about Shirley Chisholm's effect on him and how she paved a way not only for him but also for other women and minorities to follow her in Congress. Johnson talks about what type of person Chisholm was, a daring and caring woman, and how that helped her advance.

Books

- Chisholm, Shirley. *Unbought and Unbossed*. Houghton Mifflin, 1970. Unbought and Unbossed is Shirley Chisholm's first book and autobiography, published while she was in Congress. Chisholm talks about growing up in Brooklyn, New York to being the first African-American congresswoman. She talks about how she earned her interest in politics and what she was doing in Congress at the time to end the Vietnam War and help poorer, underrepresented citizens in America. She goes into how hard it was to be accepted in America and be taken seriously in the government.
- Chisholm, Shirley. *The Good Fight*. Harper & Row, 1973. The Good Fight is Shirley Chisholm's second and last book and autobiography written in 1973, post her run to be the Commander in Chief.

 Shirley Chisholm talks about being the first woman, African-American, and black woman to run for president for the Democratic party. Chisholm goes into how politics operate behind the scenes and she hopes politics will change in the future for later minority and women politicians.

Audiovisual, Images, Film, Documentaries

- "Barbara Lee Congresswoman for the 13th District of California." *Congresswoman Lee's Statement on Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm Being Awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom*, 23 Nov. 2015, lee.house.gov/news/press-releases/congresswoman-lees-statement-on-congresswoman-shirley-chisholm-being-awarded-the-presidential-medal-of-freedom. One of Congresswoman's Barbara Lee's biggest inspirations to start in politics was Shirley Chisholm. This website talks about Rep. Lee's opinion on Shirley Chisholm being awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2015.
- "Brooklyn Announcement." Shirley Chisholm Brooklyn Announcement,
 www.4president.org/speeches/shirleychisholm1972announcement.htm. This website gave me
 Shirley Chisholm's Presidential election announcement speech, in 1971, written out. This is
 helpful and a primary source because it provided me with the exact words of Shirley Chisholm in
 1972.
- CNN. *CNN*, Cable News Network, 5 Dec. 2018, www.cnn.com/videos/us/2018/12/05/shirley-chisholm-statue-orig-mg.cnn. This CNN, the Cable News Network, video talks about Shirley Chisholm's legacy and her life being the first black congresswoman. This short documentary goes into Shirley Chisholm's statue in New York to honor her legacy. CNN explains why she is such an important figure or role in American politics and inspiring future politicians.
- Columbus State Library. "Women's History United States: Shirley Chisholm." Shirley Chisholm Women's History United States Library at Columbus State Community College,

 https://www.library.cscc.edu/whm/shirleychisholm. This section of the Columbus State Library posted videos of personal interviews and speeches of Shirley Chisholm. The most important

video is video footage of when Shirley Chisholm announced her candidacy for the President of the United States of America in 1971.

Gerald R. Ford Signing of Women Equality Day

https://www.Fordlibrarymusuem.gov. This photograph depicts President Gerald R. Ford seated at the Cabinet Room table signing a proclamation on Women's Equality Day 1974. Standing behind him are Representatives Yvonne Brathwait Burke (D-California), Barbara Jordan (D-Texas), Elizabeth Holtzman (D-New York), Marjorie S. Holt (R-Maryland), Leonor K. Sullivan (D-Missouri), Cardiss Collins (D -Illinois), Corinne C. Boggs (D-Louisiana), Margaret M. Heckler (R-Massachusetts), Bella S. Abzug (D-New York), and Shirley Chisholm (D-New York).

George McGovern and Shirley Chisholm. United States of America,

https://www.digitalcommonwealth.org/search/commonwealth-oai:vm40xw79q. George McGovern was the democratic choice for the 1972 election but ended up losing to President Richard Nixon. Sen. McGovern and Shirley Chisholm were close during the time of running, even though McGovern was from Alabama and Chisholm was from New York. This is a picture of them during the 1972 election.

Maddow, Rachel. *MSNBC*, NBCUniversal News Group, 25 Dec. 2018, www.msnbc.com/rachel-maddow/watch/shirley-chisholm-had-guts-1407616067915. MSNBC's Rachel Maddow, political scientist and television host talks about Shirley Chisholm's legacy and effect on America. She looks to why Shirley had guts and did not hold back during her time in Congress and running for the president of the United States of America. Maddow speaks about how Shirley Chisholm has affected women and minorities in Congress, especially because the United States now has the most diverse group of congressmen and women in American history.

- Obama, Barack. *National Archives and Records Administration*, National Archives and Records Administration, 22 Nov. 2016, www.obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/campaign/medal-of-freedom. This is the video of President Obama giving the Presidential Medal of Freedoms in 2015 when Shirley Chisholm received the medal. Chisholm earned the medal because she inspired the American people, America, the world, and President Obama.
- PBS. *PBS*, Public Broadcasting Service, www.pbs.org/pov/watch/chisholm/. The Public Broadcasting Service, PBS, makes a POV on Shirley Chisholm talking about her run for the White House in 1972 and creating change in how America thought. PBS talks about how "Her wit, spirit, and charisma reminds all Americans of their power as citizens." They talk about her importance in American history and influencing other minorities and women to take an interest in politics.
- "Shirley Chisholm Project on Brooklyn Women's Activism." Shirley Chisholm Project on Brooklyn Women's Activism / Brooklyn College,
 - www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/web/academics/schools/socialsciences/interdisciplinary/undergraduate/womens/chisholmproject.php. Brooklyn College, the college that Shirley Chisholm attended, created a webpage dedicated to showing photos of Chisholm throughout her time at Brooklyn College. It shows a collection of photos of young Chisholm doing different activities and with different groups of people throughout her years in college.
- "Shirley Chisholm: The Politics of Principle." *Radio Diaries*, 3 Jan. 2019, www.radiodiaries.org/shirley-chisholm-the-politics-of-principle/. This is the audio of Shirley Chisholm announcing her candidacy for the Presidency of the United States of America. This page on the Radio Diaries website also gives an audio talking about Shirley Chisholm and herself in politics and what she did to change politics for America. It also provided a picture of her speaking to WNBC radio during a speech.

- State Library and Archives of Florida. "Presidential Campaigning." *Floridamemory.com*, www.floridamemory.com/items/show/253396. This is the video of Shirley Chisholm campaigning for the presidency. Chisholm talks about the challenges of being African American and a woman in America at the time and how she didn't let those obstacles, that many face in, not just America, but the world, stop her from speaking her mind, running for congress, or for the presidency and changing the world.
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 www.loc.gov/photos/?q=shirley+chisholm&fa=access-restricted:false&st=gallery. This section
 of the Library of Congress's website gives me a collection of photos of Shirley Chisholm during
 her period in American politics. The website shows many photos of Chisholm during her run for
 the White House, her time in the House of Representatives, protesting, and speaking. I used these
 photos in my documentary to show her in politics.
- UCLA Comm Studies. *Shirley Chisholm Speaking at UCLA 5/22/1972. YouTube*, YouTube, 18 Mar. 2014, www.youtube.com/watch?v=7AsUOKYByBc&feature=youtu.be. This is the audio of Shirley Chisholm speaking at UCLA about her running for the president of the United States. She talks about her time in congress and why she should be a good president. She goes on to say that she is a candidate for the people, the people major candidates ignore.

Newspapers

Hamilton, Willie L. "Madame President?" *Amsterdam News*, 29 Jan. 1972. This newspaper is one of many announcing Shirley Chisholm's run for president, only days after she announced to the

- world that she would become the first woman and African American to run with the democratic party for president.
- "Shirley for President." *Woman's Guardian*, 1972. This is one article that came out soon after Shirley Chisholm's announcement for her presidential bid in 1972. The article celebrated Chisholm's announcement.
- "This Is Fighting Shirley Chisholm." *New York Times*, 13 Apr. 1969. In this New York Times article from 1969, the author writes about "The Fighting Shirley Chisholm," and her work in Congress at her beginning in the House of Representatives.

Music

- "America the Beautiful." This song is very patriotic. It celebrates its storied past and most important
 evokes its limitless future potential. I used it when she was at the democratic national convention.
- Bernice Johnson. "Guide My Feet, While I Run This Race." This piece is perfect to introduce Shirley

 Chisholm's run to the White House in 1972. The song talks about no matter how hard it gets; you

 keep running until you are done. It represents female and black empowerment for Chisholm

 during this time of challenge and change.
- Bill Withers. "Lovely Day." I choose this song for the background while talking about her early life because the song is hopeful, gentle, and refers to growing up. This was a perfect song with a moderate tempo to describe her early life and entry into politics.

- The Golden Gospel Singers. "Oh Freedom!" I used the song for my closing during one of Chisholm's last interviews. This song is considered as one of the top civil rights movement songs because of the deep, connectable lyrics and the catchy sing-along tune. This song's lyrics share a message that so many African Americans could easily connect to and is an overall theme not just for the civil rights movement, but for life itself. It represents you should stand up for what you believe in.
- James Brown. "Say It Loud, I'm Black and I'm Proud." This song by the famous legend, James Brown came out in 1968, while Chisholm was running for a seat in Congress. This song came out to help black people feel pride in their music, their art, and themselves. The song became an anthem for the black power movement and the civil rights movement.
- John Legend. "Glory." I chose to use the instrumental of the song to play during her legacy part of the documentary. The song is triumphant and overall meaning there will be no more fighting and peace will return and those who try to stop us will not succeed.
- Jorge Méndez. "Cold." I used it in my documentary to show the devastating occurrences that were happening during Vietnam and how she protested against the war.
- Sam Cooke. "A Change Is Gonna Come." This song has represented change since it came out in 1964.

 This song came out to help out during the prime of the civil rights movement. This song is very common in black communities and activists for speaking out and wanting change, as Shirley Chisholm wanted.

Websites, e-sources

Freeman, Jo. "Shirley Chisholm's 1972 Presidential Campaign." *Shirley Chisholm's 1972 Presidential Campaign*, Feb. 2005, www.jofreeman.com/polhistory/chisholm.htm. This article is a first-hand account from political scientist Jo Freeman. Freeman was there alongside Shirley Chisholm during her presidential run, going into detail about events during her run. Jo Freeman and Shirley Chisholm fought together for the rights of women during the 60s and the 70s.

Secondary Sources

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American Public Media. "American RadioWorks - Say It Plain, Say It Loud." *APM Reports - Investigations and Documentaries from American Public Media*, americanradioworks.publicradio.org/features/blackspeech/schisholm.html. This website gives a Shirley Chisholm speech in 1974 at the University of Missouri about her role in the government as a black woman. The website also gives a brief explanation of Chisholm's life.

- Archives. "Unbought and Unbossed: US House of Representatives: History, Art & Archives." *Unbought and Unbossed | US House of Representatives: History, Art & Archives*, 5 Mar. 2018, history.house.gov/Blog/2018/March/3-5-photo-chisholm/. This passage gives information on Shirley Chisholm's time in the House of Representatives and her run for the white house. This uses sources from magazines and newspapers when everything was happening.
- Carmon, Irin. "Before Hillary Clinton or Barack Obama, There Was Shirley Chisholm." *NBCNews.com*, NBCUniversal News Group, 13 Sept. 2016, 3:42 p.m., www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/hillary-clinton-or-barack-obama-there-was-shirley-chisholm-n647531. Before there were important, famous politicians today, there was Shirley Chisholm, a woman who inspired many of

our politicians today. This article talks about the influence Chisholm had on many politicians and what she did during her time in politics.

"Chisholm '72 - Unbought and Unbossed." Zinn Education Project,

www.zinnedproject.org/materials/chisholm-72-unbought-and-unbossed/. This article not only goes into details about Shirley Chisholm and her run to the white house and her era in the House of Representatives but also gave a video of her speaking and many photos of her that I used in my documentary. The article talks about teaching people about Shirley Chisholm and what they need and should know about her and her importance to America.

- "Chisholm, Shirley." *National Women's Hall of Fame*, www.womenofthehall.org/inductee/shirley-chisholm/. The National Women's Hall of Fame inducted Shirley Chisholm in 1993 because of all the work she did for a change in America. This article talks about why Shirley Chisholm is such an important role in history and she is an important figure in politics. Chisholm plays an important part in encouraging many minorities and women to take an interest in politics when people thought it couldn't be done.
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www.smithsonianmag.com/smartnews-travel/new-nyc-statue-honor-shirley-chisholm-first-black-congresswoman-us-history-180970943/. This website gives information about what New York is doing for Chisholm's legacy for New York She's becoming the first woman in Brooklyn to have a statue dedicated to her and her work.

Landers, Jackson. "Unbought And Unbossed:" When a Black Woman Ran for the White House."

Smithsonian.com, Smithsonian Institution, 25 Apr. 2016,

www.smithsonianmag.com/smithsonian-institution/unbought-and-unbossed-when-black-woman-ran-for-the-white-house-180958699/. This article by the Smithsonian covers Shirley Chisholm's time running for the president of the United States. The article also provided me with pictures I used in my documentary from Chisholm's run.

"Learn More About Shirley Chisholm." Brooklyn College,

www.brooklyn.cuny.edu/web/academics/schools/socialsciences/interdisciplinary/undergraduate/womens/chisholmproject/learn_more.php. Shirley Chisholm attended Brooklyn College for her undergraduate degree. The college talks about who Shirley Chisholm is and what she has done for the State of New York, The United States, and especially Brooklyn College and how people look up to her now.

Library of Congress. "Campaigning for President." Library of Congress,

www.loc.gov/lcm/pdf/LCM_2017_0102.pdf. This information from the Library of Congress explains how the president of the United States is chosen and the processes candidates have to go through. It teaches the rules of that candidates how to follow, how to become a candidate and why we need this process to help in the United States' most important and public elections.

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- Michals, Debra. "Shirley Chisholm." *National Women's History Museum*, 2015,

 www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/shirley-chisholm. This article gave me information on Shirley Chisholm's life. It also goes into a little about her life in politics, but mostly explains early life. The National Women's History Museum celebrates Shirley Chisholm with this article and also explains what she did in politics to make it better and improve it.
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 article talks about how far America has come in racism and sexism since the 1960s. Shirley
 Chisholm was both black and a woman making her have more issues in America than a person
 with a single issue. Being a woman and black held her back from doing many things and many
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 This article by The Guardian talks about Shirley Chisholm's legacy and what New York City is doing for their congresswoman's legacy. It goes into a brief history about Chisholm's life and why she's such an important role in history.
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"Women in Politics Remember Shirley Chisholm." Performance by USA Today, *YouTube*, YouTube, 14 Feb. 2018, www.youtube.com/watch?v=tkWHsW5kcyE. USA Today news talks about how important Shirley Chisholm is to women and a change of them into politics. The video talks about how Chisholm was a feminist creating change for minorities and women to have a place at the table.