

## Process Paper

Growing up in a world where disabled people are a minority, we have been intrigued by the processes the deaf, blind, and mute community use in order to learn to communicate. We know that these populations often go unnoticed and we wanted to make a contribution to them and the woman who opened opportunities for them. We wanted to produce a project that would acknowledge the struggles that disabled people face every day and how they have changed over time. Throughout our research, we learned that the reality of what we know of and take for granted is something a large population can only wish for and work twice as hard to learn. Some of us didn't realize just how paralyzing it could be to constantly live in a world of silence and darkness. As students who can both see and hear better than others, we have all developed a new respect and fondness for the perseverance each physically disabled person carries with them every day. Anne Sullivan was the first to *truly* recognize the hardships these deaf, blind, and mute populations go through and we saw it fit to honor her memory and contributions to the disabled populations, then and now.

To find the necessary information for our website, we read articles and books, watched movies, found interviews, and even talked to people we know that suffer from these impairments. By doing this, we were able to learn more about the hardships people in our world face every day and what Anne Sullivan did to help make it easier. With a variety of media, we were able to build a cohesive website that shares Anne Sullivan's contributions with our viewers.

We decided that a website would be the best option for us and our topic because it seemed like a conscientious way to see our work come together. Unlike other categories, we could work on the project together or on our own, as long as we had a computer, making it

convenient for us. It was challenging at first and the software confused us, but remembering the perseverance Anne Sullivan carried with her, kept us going. As we continued using the program, it began to make more sense, and in the end, we were very proud of our work and that we persisted to complete our website.

Throughout her life, Anne Sullivan paved the way for other teachers of the deafblind and defied the odds against her. Sullivan had the power to inspire people, and even though she is no longer here, she continues to encourage people all over the world in various ways. Without Anne Sullivan's teaching, we would not know about the hardships of either woman or how deaf, blind, and mute teaching processes evolved to what we know today. Had Anne Sullivan been doubtful of her skills and given up, Helen Keller wouldn't have accomplished what she did. By helping Helen Keller, Anne Sullivan paved the way for future blind, deaf, and mute people.