

**Ireland's Bloody Sunday:  
Failures of Debate and Diplomacy**

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Individual Website  
Junior Division  
Student Composed Words: 1199  
Multimedia: 2:59  
Process Paper: 494**

## **Process Paper:**

Once I figured out this year's theme of Debate and Diplomacy, I looked up events in history that had several examples of the topic. My parents mentioned the Irish Republican Army and how they killed the Queen's cousin. I googled the IRA and found a timeline of all the events. I thought I could do a brief mention of everything that happened; however, I realized that I wouldn't really be going into depth a lot, and the examples of Debate with Diplomacy were not compelling. I then decided to narrow it down more to just *The Troubles*, but I also realized that I wouldn't have enough words to address the topic thoroughly. Next, I narrowed down my project further to just focus on *Bloody Sunday*. Finally, I felt like I had enough room to go deeply into the topic.

I started off my research by looking at the timeline of the IRA, which provided additional links about the Bloody Sunday massacre. I clicked it and they briefly mentioned Bloody Sunday. Since it was brief, I interviewed Professor McMahon for his input. He explained how the African American Civil Rights movement had a big influence on the Irish Catholics. I was interested in this idea and did more research. I figured out that many factors contributed to Bloody Sunday and I thought it would be important to include all .

Last year, I chose to do a website, and had a very hard time working with it. I wasn't using blocks and the images were not cooperating. I learned from my mistake, and tried to give the website builder another try. Also, I thought the website was the best format to choose for this project because I can add videos, pictures, and I feel that the 1,200 word count is sufficient to explain my topic. When I started to build my website, I decided to use the same layout that I did last year. I thought it looked professional and clear.

The history teachers at my school hosted a NHD club, where I could work and receive help on my project. I worked on my project there, and occasionally I would meet up with my teacher after school to show her my project. After I got all my research done I asked my math, english, elective teacher and the assistant principal to act like a judge and fill out a judging rubric. I then took their advice to make my project stronger.

*Bloody Sunday* fits this year's theme of Debate and Diplomacy because the event was influenced by both debate and diplomacy during the Civil Rights movement in the United States. The massacre itself was caused by debate between Catholics and Protestants in Northern Ireland and subsequently led to attempts at diplomacy between the Irish Republican Army, the Irish government, and the British government. Additionally, the inquiry that followed began with diplomacy, then moved to debate, back to diplomacy, and finally returned to debate again.