

Margaret Sanger: A Pioneer in Women's Contraceptive and Reproductive Rights

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Group Exhibit

Process Paper: 463 words

Student-Composed Words: 500 words

When we were choosing an interesting topic, the Supreme Court decision of *Roe v. Wade* came out, which concerned the right of a woman to have an abortion. Because of this controversial decision, we focused our research on women's abortion and birth control rights. We chose Margaret Sanger, a revolutionary for her work in advancing women's birth control and birth control rights. She fits perfectly into this year's NHD theme, "Frontiers in History: People, Places, Ideas." Despite the Congress-passed Comstock Act of 1873, which outlawed contraceptive use in the United States, Margaret Sanger succeeded in initiating the development and creation of the first oral contraceptive, which changed women's reproductive rights forever, as well as causing the repeal of the Comstock Act in 1873.

After finalizing our topic, we went to the library to find a book about Margaret Sanger. We eventually found her autobiography, *Margaret Sanger an autobiography*, and a biography written by Jean Baker called *Margaret Sanger: a Life of Passion*. We also accessed many quotes through her interview with Mike Wallace on *The Mike Wallace Interview* and her speech from the book *Birth Control, What It Is, How It Works, What It Will Do*. We concluded our research by using Planned Parenthood's website to learn about the controversy she created. Through these websites and many more, we created our exhibit.

Since we are active in several school clubs, we chose an exhibit over a website so we could have more time to perfect our work. We chose to work together because we are siblings and knew how helpful it would be to always be in close contact. Although the 500-word limit was challenging, we could stay below it and find good quotes to support our argument fully. By incorporating images, sections, quotes, and original text, we created a balance between all aspects of Margaret Sanger's story and her legacy. Additionally, we used NoodleTools to organize and create our bibliography.

Although Margaret Sanger is considered a pioneer in women's rights and birth control, she faced controversy from the public and Planned Parenthood for being racist and into eugenics. Her work relieved many women worldwide of the burden of having children and gave them a choice with their bodies. She also defied standards for women, allowing them to be seen as more than a person meant to create babies. Her role as founder of Planned Parenthood not only gave women a voice to speak but made sure everyone had a choice and could access birth control and live their life the way they wanted. She helped thousands of women redefine their lives and gave birth control a whole new meaning. Sanger also inspired many women to pursue careers and defy gender norms. She is a true pioneer in women's rights and birth control.

Annotated Bibliography

"About Sanger." *The Margaret Sanger Paper's Project*, sanger.hosting.nyu.edu/aboutms/msbio/. Accessed 29 Dec. 2022.

This is a website about Margaret Sanger and her works. We used this website to find out about her interviews and her books.

"Anthony Comstock's 'Chastity' Laws." *PBS*, www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/pill-anthony-comstocks-chastity-laws/. Accessed 25 Jan. 2023.

This is an article about the Comstock Act and why it was created. We used this website to learn about the Comstock Act and connect that to how it affected Margaret Sanger.

Baker, Jean H. *Margaret Sanger: A Life of Passion*. New York City, D&M Publishers, 2011. This is a biography book about Margaret Sanger's life. We used the book to find quotes about Margaret Sanger and it provided an outside perspective of how people see her today and how she has affected our life today.

Biography.com Editors. "Margaret Sanger Biography." *The Biography.com Website*, A&E Television Networks, 2 Apr. 2014, www.biography.com/activist/margaret-sanger. Accessed 29 Dec. 2022.

This is a biography article about Margaret Sanger. We used this article to learn about the controversy Margaret Sanger faced and quick facts about her.

"birth control." *Health Reference Center*, online.infobase.com/HRC/Search/Details/11?articleId=126796&q=margaret%20sanger. Accessed 29 Dec. 2022.

This is an article about Birth Control. We used this article to learn about the history of birth control and how Margaret Sanger was involved in the process of creating birth control.

The Birth Control Pill, a History. Planned Parenthood Federation of America, 2015. *Planned Parenthood*, www.plannedparenthood.org/files/1514/3518/7100/Pill_History_FactSheet.pdf. Accessed 30 Apr. 2023.

This is a pamphlet describing the creation of the pill. We used this to write the section titled: Margaret Sanger and the "pill", specifically for information on Margaret Sanger's impact and the timeline of the pill.

"Birth Control What It Is How It Works What It Will Do." *Google Books*, books.google.com/books?id=IWCpZJ0w0n8C&pg=PA14&lpg=PA14&dq=%22I+am+glad+to+join+you+in+the+welcome+that+Mrs.+Hooker%22&source=bl&ots=0RhVBIQLKo&sig=irR3irDlziBMlZEULwsgFnsLab8&hl=en&ei=hXDDtLDgNYH_8AaSq8D8Dw&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result#v=onepage&q=Margaret%20Sanger&f=false. Accessed 8 Feb. 2023.

This is a speech Margaret Sanger gave during the First American Birth control Conference on November 11, 1921. We used this speech to find quotes about Margaret Sanger's cause and we also used a quote about eliminating population in the USA.

Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. "Mike Wallace." Encyclopedia Britannica, 12 Jan. 2023, <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Mike-Wallace>. Accessed 7 February 2023.

This is an article about Mike Wallace, a person who interviewed Margaret Sanger. We used this to get general information on the Mike Wallace show and when it was created.

Burnette, Brandon R. "Comstock Act of 1873." *The First Amendment Encyclopedia*, Middle Tennessee State University, 2009, www.mtsu.edu/first-amendment/article/1038/comstock-act-of-1873#:~:text=The%20Comstock%20Act%20of%201873,picture%2C%20drawing%2C%20or%20advertisement. Accessed 7 Feb. 2023.

This is an article about how the Comstock Act was created. We used this article to fully understand why the Comstock Act was created and how it affected the USA.

C., Anna. *Katherine McCormick*. Planned Parenthood, 26 Aug. 2019, www.plannedparenthoodaction.org/planned-parenthood-advocates-arizona/blog/katharine-dexter-mccormick-fierce-feminist-and-secret-smuggler. Accessed 5 May 2023.

This source was used to obtain an image of Katherine McCormick, which was used to create a hand-out full of images.

Chesler, Ellen. *Women of Valor*. New York City, Simon & Schuster, 1992.

This is a book about the women present in the birth control movement in America. We used this book to gain insight on how Margaret Sanger was associated in creating the first oral contraceptive.

CSUN University Library. 18 Sept. 2018, library.csun.edu/SCA/Peek-in-the-Stacks/sanger. Accessed 8 Feb. 2023.

This is a university library website that has information about Margaret Sanger. We used this website to find pictures and names of the many books Margaret Sanger wrote.

Dr. John C. Rock. Harvard University,
collections.countway.harvard.edu/onview/exhibits/show/conceiving-the-pill/item/6540.
Accessed 5 May 2023.

This source was used to get an image of Dr. John C. Rock, which was used to create a hand-out containing images.

"Eugenics and Scientific Racism." *National Human Genome Research Institute*, United States Government, 18 May 2022, www.genome.gov/about-genomics/fact-sheets/Eugenics-and-Scientific-Racism. Accessed 7 Feb. 2023.

This is an article about what Eugenics and Scientific Racism is. We used this website to understand what Eugenics and Scientific Racism is about and connect it back to why Margaret Sanger was accused of it. We also used this website to get quotes about what Eugenics is.

Exton, David. *Bottle of Enovid Tabs 10mg, Early 1960s. TIme*, 23 June 2015, time.com/3929971/enovid-the-pill/. Accessed 5 May 2023.

This source was used to find an image of a bottle of Enovid pills, which was used to create a hand-out containing several images.

"Fact Check-Planned Parenthood Founder Margaret Sanger's 1939 Quote on Exterminating Black Population Taken out of Context." *Reuters*, 9 May 2022, www.reuters.com/article/factcheck-pp-exterminating/fact-check-planned-parenthood-founder-margaret-sangers-1939-quote-on-exterminating-black-population-taken-out-of-context-idUSKBN2X11YN. Accessed 7 Feb. 2023.

This is an article about a racist quote Margaret Sanger said. We used this website to fact check our sources and confirm what she said. Additionally, we used a quote about what she said from this website.

Gregory Pincus. PBS, www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/gregory-pincus-1903-1967/. Accessed 5 May 2023.

This source was used to obtain an image of Gregory Pincus, which was used to make a hand-out with images.

"Gregory Pincus (1903-1967)." *PBS*, www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/gregory-pincus-1903-1967/. Accessed 23 Feb. 2023.

This is an article about Gregory Pincus, the co-founder of the oral contraceptive. We used this article to find a picture of him and to learn about how he and Margaret Sanger met.

"History Vault." *ProQuest*,
proquest.libguides.com/historyvault/sanger#:~:text=Beginning%20in%201946%20and%20continuing,~and%20middle%2Dclass%20family%20life. Accessed 30 Apr. 2023.

This is a website that contains the Margaret Sanger Papers. We used this website to gain a brief overview on the papers and understand how they contributed to society.

"Japan: Sanger's Run in with the Ambassador." *Margaret Sanger Papers Project - Research Annex*, 30 Apr. 2012,
sangerpapers.wordpress.com/2012/04/30/japan-sangers-run-in-with-the-ambassador/. Accessed 1 May 2023.

This is a website containing a timeline of Margaret Sanger's life and important dates. We used this website to learn about her meeting with the Japanese ambassador in 1955.

Junod, Suzanne White. "FDA's Approval of the First Oral Contraceptive, Enovid." *The Update*, July 1998. *FDA*, www.fda.gov/media/110456/download. Accessed 1 May 2023.

This is a bimonthly newsletter called The Update, and it was run and published by the FDA. In particular, this section pulled from the July-August 1998 version of the Update was used to get the quote explaining the FDA's approval of the state-of-the-art and controversial contraceptive pill called Enovid, and known as the "pill".

Kennedy, David M. *Birth Control in America: The Career of Margaret Sanger*. E-book ed., Yale UP, 1971. Google Books.

This is a book published by Yale about Margaret Sanger's work. We used this book to learn about Margaret Sanger and her background.

Ludwig, Hayden. "Margaret Sanger: The 'Tragedy of Overpopulation.'" *Capital Research Center*, 19 May 2020, capitalresearch.org/article/margaret-sanger-part-2/. Accessed 3 Jan. 2023.

This is an article about how Margaret Sanger saw our population as a tragedy. We used this article to get a better understanding about Margaret Sanger's beliefs on overpopulation and how she saw people as unfit.

"Margaret H. Sanger." *Library of Congress*, www.loc.gov/item/2014696099/. Accessed 21 Feb. 2023.

This is a website that has photos of Margaret Sanger. We used this website to find portraits of her and photos of her in her clinic.

"Margaret Sanger (1879-1966)." *PBS*,
www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/pill-margaret-sanger-1879-1966/. Accessed 1 Dec. 2022.

This is an article on the birth control pill and how Margaret Sanger created it. We used this article to learn more information about the process of creating the birth control pill.

"Margaret Sanger Slee." *Arizona Women's Hall of Fame*,

www.azwhf.org/copy-of-lucy-sikorsky#:~:text=In%201952%20she%20was%20nominated,honorary%20Doctor%20of%20Humanities%20degree. Accessed 30 Apr. 2023.

This is a website that has a quick overview of Margaret Sanger's life. We used this website to learn about the Prizes Margaret Sanger has been awarded, such as the Nobel Peace Prize and the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Michals, Debra. "Margaret Sanger." *National Women's History Museum*, 2017,

www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/margaret-sanger. Accessed 29 Dec. 2022.

This is a biography on Margaret Sanger's whole life. This gave us a quick overview of Margaret Sanger's life and provided us with information about her past.

National Archives, 3 June 2019, www.archives.gov/nhprc/projects/catalog/margaret-sanger.

Accessed 29 Dec. 2022.

This is an article about The Margaret Sanger Papers. We used this website to get a photo of the cover of the Margaret Sanger Papers.

"The Newsletter." *The Margaret Sanger Papers Project*,

sanger.hosting.nyu.edu/articles/sanger_macarthur/. Accessed 30 Apr. 2023.

This is a website containing a letter written about Margaret Sanger's work in Japan. We used this to learn about her work in Japan and connect that back to how it affected the whole world.

"New York v. Sanger." *American History*, 2021,

online.infobase.com/HRC/Search/Details/2?articleId=163908&q=margaret%20sanger. Accessed 29 Dec. 2022.

This is an article about why Margaret Sanger was arrested. We used this article to gain information about what Margaret Sanger did to have been arrested.

Opposition Claims about Margaret Sanger. Apr. 2021. *Planned Parenthood*,

www.plannedparenthood.org/uploads/filer_public/cc/2e/cc2e84f2-126f-41a5-a24b-43e093c47b2c/210414-sanger-opposition-claims-p01.pdf. Accessed 3 Jan. 2023.

This is an article written by Planned Parenthood about claims against Margaret Sanger. We used this article to learn about why Planned Parenthood removed Margaret Sanger from their founding list.

ProQuest. proquest.libguides.com/ld.php?content_id=46386865. Accessed 29 Dec. 2022.

This is an article about the Margaret Sanger Papers. We used this source to gain information about the papers such as their names and what they were about.

Sanger, Margaret, et al. The Pivot of Civilization. [New York: Brentano's, Publishers, 1922] Pdf. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <www.loc.gov/item/22011775/>.

This is a book used for a quote about eugenics, page 189, and to gain more of an understanding of Margaret Sanger's written work, and her views of contraceptives and their effect on women and the world.

Sanger, Margaret. "Interview with Margaret Sanger." Interview by Mike Wallace. *Harry Ransom Center*, 21 Sept. 1957, hrc.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p15878coll90/id/27/. Accessed 12 Jan. 2023.

This is an interview of Margaret Sanger about why she created the birth control pill. We used this article to take quotes from the interview and to learn about what Mike Wallace did and why people hated him for interviewing Margaret Sanger.

Margaret Sanger an Autobiography. Dover Publications, 1971.

This is an autobiography book of Margaret Sanger written by herself about her life. We used this book to learn about Margaret Sanger's view on what she did and we also used this book for quotes about her life and the experience she faced that no one talks about.

Takeuchi-Demirci, Aiko. "Margaret Sanger in Japan." *Stanford University Press Blog*, stanfordpress.typepad.com/blog/2018/02/margaret-sanger-in-japan-.html. Accessed 1 May 2023.

This is an online university newspaper and blog post about Margaret Sanger's work in Japan. We used this to learn about how she influenced the Japanese people, such as using the help of Japanese activists. We also got a quote from this website.

"A Timeline of Contraception." *PBS*, www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/pill-timeline/. Accessed 7 Feb. 2023.

This is a timeline of contraception. We used this to understand where Margaret Sanger fits into the overall birth control movement.

Valenza, C. "Was Margaret Sanger a Racist?" *National Library of Medicine*, United States Government, pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/3884362/.

This is an article about claims about Margaret Sanger being racist. We used the article to learn about if she was racist and what people did as a response.

Varley, Alana. "Margaret Sanger: Birth Control a Eugenic Solution." *Care Net*, 22 Jan. 2018, www.care-net.org/abundant-life-blog/margaret-sanger-birth-control-a-eugenic-solution. Accessed 8 Feb. 2023.

This is an article about Margaret Sanger's life and if she was into Eugenics or not. We used this article to find a photo of Margaret Sanger and her family and quote about her perseverance from grandson.

Woods, Roberta Wendy. *Enovid. Museum of Contraception and Abortion*,
muvs.org/en/contraception/pills/enovid-id2105/. Accessed 5 May 2023.

This source was used to find an image of the Enovid pill, which was used in an informational, hand-out packet that was printed.