

Throughout all of history, innovations have introduced themselves in various shapes, ways, and forms. To choose only one of these many innovations, one with an incredible impact, seemed like an impossible task. I began to relate this task to my everyday life; what was changing me? It wasn't until I sat down with my family to watch one of our fun science fiction shows that it clicked. What show has completely revolutionized science fiction, technology, and culture? Star Trek. With my topic chosen, I started to research this impacting television series.

The problem with choosing such a famous topic was separating fanatic raving from fact. The internet was a tricky source, but when I found news articles that the information began pouring in. NASA, and various newspapers and magazines, such as Scientific American, proved to be very helpful. The articles led me to contact radiation physicist, David Allen Batchelor, whose opinion on Star Trek's influence on technology drastically helped in supporting my thesis. Further, I interviewed Rob Haitani, creator of the PalmOne, who reiterated the fact that engineers have been influenced by Star Trek, when he spoke about his own products and work. Another helpful source was the Science Fiction Museum in Seattle, Washington. Not only did I get an interview of Nichelle Nichols, a main character of Star Trek, but I also interviewed the curator of the museum itself; Brooks Peck. He really knew his facts about Star Trek and was able to answer every question I threw at him thoroughly. With these interviews, and the various information from the news articles, I pieced together my project.

Choosing the category for my presentation was the easiest part of the History Day process. I knew immediately that doing a documentary was the most logical category for the topic I chose. Having the various episodes of Star Trek, as well as the interviews with

Brooks Peck and Nichelle Nichols, I knew I'd have all of the footage that I'd need. After choosing the topic I needed to start putting it together. The only problem was, the movie making programs didn't want to work for me. Each program I used crashed in one way or the other, all ending in failure, until I found iMovie. With this program I was able to create what is now my History Day documentary.

Beginning my project I already knew that Star Trek had a big impact on science fiction but I never fully understood the entirety of its influence. Star Trek introduced controversial subjects that no other series at the time covered. It showed people different races living together in harmony, and broadcasted technology that seemed to be only a dream. Star Trek showed the first flip phones, automatic sliding doors, and desktop computers, and engineers claim that Star Trek was a direct influence on their technology. It was one of the most important innovations in history because it influenced not only the entertainment industry, but technology, culture, and society. Star Trek changed the world.