

# **Carl Sagan: How He Changed The World**

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**Group Website**

**Junior Division**

**Student-composed Words: 1189**

**Process Paper:500**

## **Process Paper**

When our group began work on the NHD Competition, we were considering Dolly Parton as our topic. However, we quickly abandoned this because of lack of interest. We decided we wanted to do a scientist that was working or had worked with astronomy. Finally, we decided on Carl Sagan, a very famous astrophysicist.

After we had decided on a topic, we began our research by reading about his life. This allowed us to know our topic better. We went through his achievements and found that he had been a pioneer in planetary science, and that he had founded two different, well-respected organizations. We then found that he had written many books, and we were able to use them as primary sources. We decided we wanted to interview people who Carl influenced, such as Neil de Grasse Tyson. However, we were unable to contact anyone to interview. We did most of our research at school, and we used reliable websites, such as the SETI, Planetary Society, and NASA websites. We also went through and read interviews with Ann Druyan, Neil deGrasse, and David Morison. We also searched for sources at the Public Library in both Clarksville and Nashville, as well as the library at Austin Peay State University.

We started deciding on our category, and eliminated the performance because neither of us are any good at public speaking. We then decided not to do an exhibit because we knew there would be a multitude of other entries, and since neither of us are particularly artistically inclined, we felt we could not stand up to the competition. We knew that we were both great writers, and, although neither of us are particularly tech savvy, we thought creating a website would be a great experience. Once we had decided, we went into the website and worked to get the feel of the site. Then we decided on a

format for the website. After we finished, we wrote out all the information and transferred it to our website. After this we went to county and won second place. Once we had gotten the judging sheets back, we began improvements. We only had a week to complete the changes, but we managed. We deleted extra words, and made the Process Paper and Annotated Bibliography. After this we began to try and find more non- web sources, but we had no luck finding any.

Carl turned out to be the perfect choice for National History Day. He had leadership in many different areas. He was one of the few people to compare our atmosphere with other planets, which helped us understand the effects of pollution on our atmosphere. He was the scientist who defined both exobiology and planetary science, and brought a completely new way of teaching through his television show 'Cosmos'. He lives on through Neil deGrasse Tyson, who continued his television show, through 'Cosmos: A Space Time Odyssey. Carl was a great scientific leader and has left a large legacy behind him.