

**Elizabeth Blackwell: The Turning Point That
Redefined Women's Role in Medicine**

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Individual Website

PROCESS PAPER

Ever since I discovered Elizabeth Blackwell, an extraordinary woman who changed the face of medicine, I was mesmerized by the amount of accomplishments she achieved as a woman. In 1849, she was the first woman to receive a medical degree from an American medical school. In 1858, she was able to become the first woman in England to have her name entered on the General Medical Council's medical register. Blackwell not only accomplished things for herself she unlocked a whole new world for women to explore. She stood as a pioneer and urged the discipline of women in the medical careers. As a woman in the 1800s, Elizabeth's achievements were out of this world, but they did not come easy seeing that women rarely got out and were not the type for going to college. The actions of Elizabeth Blackwell helped others and improved American life by inspiring women to pursue their dreams no matter what hurdles they may face. As a young student myself, aspiring to learn more about the medical field, Blackwell's journey through medicine has fascinated me.

To start my research, I read online biographies about Elizabeth, visited her college and the National Library of Medicine website. I discovered primary sources in letters, research papers, and blueprints offered by the Harvard University digital collection. I visited my local and school libraries which provided me with books about Elizabeth's life. In addition, I bought three books to gather detailed facts about Blackwell, her education and social reform work. Besides books and websites, I visited New York to see Elizabeth's Dispensary and College. I also contacted various Professors and Doctors to conduct interviews.

I selected my presentation category of individual website as I thought it was a wonderful way to showcase what I had learned about the subject and wanted to convey my message through

words, images, and videos. I chose the format, selected a layout, separated into main categories for sequential navigation, and chose subtopics for each page. To further support my thesis and provide a comprehensive story, I included visuals, graphs, newspaper articles, multimedia, and personal interviews. After receiving feedback from the school, regional and state competition judges, I further refined my website for the national competition.

Elizabeth's groundbreaking achievement in becoming the first female medical doctor in the United States represents a profound turning point in history, redefining the role of women in the medical field forever. She became a prominent public health activist during her lifetime. Elizabeth never gave up, even when she was rejected by 29 colleges, or when she was the only woman in her class and often mocked by her classmates and teachers. She was involved in several reform movements including those supporting women's rights, hygiene, and family planning. She was also an author and published several books. Elizabeth's lasting impact continues to inspire advancements in both medicine and the pursuit of gender equality.