| Black Mountain College: Breaking Barriers in Art through Inclusiveness and Individuality |
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| Courtney Blair and Emma Grace Palmer   |
| Group Website  |
| Junior Division  |
| Process Paper: 468   |
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This year we chose to research the Black Mountain College. When we were trying to pick a topic, we developed a list of potential topics, but--after looking into them a little--we didn't see much to them. We first found out about our topic when our teacher showed us topics related to North Carolina. We really liked the way the college broke so many discriminatory barriers in higher education and the boundaries it pushed in the arts, and being able to see the parallels from it and other schools today.

Since we had created an NHD project last year, the research process wasn't as hard because we already knew how to locate and cite good sources. We started by each writing a research paper; one focused on the significance of Black Mountain College and how it relates to today's society while the other focused on the barriers it broke. We then pulled information from both papers to make new paragraphs contained in our website. While working on the website, we spent a day at the Pack Library in Asheville, looking at sources in their North Carolina Room. We also visited the Black Mountain College Museum and Arts Center where we met with one of the curators who talked to us about the college and sent us some helpful links to websites like their digital exhibit on "Politics at Black Mountain College." We also spent time in their library where we saw a loom similar to Anni Albers' and consulted helpful texts like *Leap Before You Look: Black Mountain College, 1933-1957*.

We chose the website category again this year because we were successful with it last year. Also we wanted to incorporate visuals of Black Mountain College in our project, and creating a website allowed us to be creative in the way we wanted to tell the story. Without having to have the special equipment needed for some of the other project types. However, one

challenge we faced with our project this year was adjusting to NHD's new website builder presented a challenge, because we had used Weebly last year, which was more user-friendly.

When first looking at Black Mountain College, it was pretty easy to see the way it broke barriers.

The problem was that it broke barriers in several ways, so it was hard to pick what angle we wanted to take. We ended up going the political route while still incorporating the other barriers. We chose this because the more we looked into the historical context and what was going on during that time, it seemed even more incredible that they had women, African Americans, and

allowed to be educated, but made it so the arts were part of their education.

Jews from 1933-1957, but through these barriers, they were able to change not only who was

## Annotated Bibliography

## **Primary Sources**

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- Albers, Josef. *Leaf Study IX*. C. 1940, Leap Before You Look: Black Mountain College, 1933-1957. This photo will go along with other pictures from the book "Leap Before You Look: Black Mountain College, 1933-1957" to show some of the unique artwork created at BMC.
- The Black Mountain College Building. *Black Mountain College Museum and Arts Center*, www.blackmountaincollege.org/history/. Accessed 22 Dec. 2019. This is a picture of the building that the first teachers of the school rented that became the Black Mountain College.
- Black Mountain College Bulletin. *North Carolina Digital Collections*,

  digital.ncdcr.gov/cdm/compoundobject/collection/p249901coll44/id/607/rec/48.

  Accessed 4 Jan. 2020. We used the cover picture of the bulletin that has the college's logo, to go on the front page with the image slider.
- Black Mountain College Museum and Arts Center. Interview. 4 Jan. 2020. We visited Black

  Mountain college Museum and Arts center where we we were shown the exhibit that was

going on at the time about Stan Vanderbeek, we also got to see some primary source documents like the one displayed on our website from Stan Vanderbeek, as well as other artwork, and we spent time in their library where we read several different book about students, teachers and the art created at the college.

- Black Mountain College Studies Building. *North Carolina Digital Collections*, digital.ncdcr.gov/cdm/singleitem/collection/p249901coll44/id/1112/rec/1. Accessed 8

  Jan. 2020. This is a photo of the Black Mountain College Studies Building.
- Bostic, Connie. "An Interview with Dorothea Rockburne." *Black Mountain College Museum and Arts Center*, 19 Apr. 2002, www.blackmountaincollege.org/oral-histories/. Accessed 6

  May 2020. We used a trimmed version of this interview with Dorothea Rockburne on our website. In this interview she gives information about her experience with her teachers, and also says things about her being a woman, and how Black Mountain College gave her the tools she needed to be successful. Which all goes to help support our theme of how Black Mountain College broke barriers.
- Connie Spencer, Black Mountain College Student, Ca. 1940-1942. C. 1940-1942. North Carolina Digital Collections, digital.ncdcr.gov/cdm/ref/collection/p249901coll44/id/1137.

  Accessed 10 Jan. 2020. This is an image of Conni Spencer, that can go on the breaking barriers page along with the paragraph about women attending the college.
- "Co-op College to Open Monday." *Wilmington Morning Star*, 5 Sept. 1940, p. 10. *Chronicling America*,
  - chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn78002169/1940-09-05/ed-1/seq-10/print/image\_681x7

- 59\_from\_0%2C230\_to\_5038%2C5849/. Accessed 12 Oct. 2019. This article reinforces what is said in other sources, but it goes into a little more detail and is a primary source.
- Elaine De Kooning and Buckminster Fuller's Venetian Blind Strip Dome, 1948 Summer Session in the Arts, Black Mountain College. 1948. North Carolina Digital Collections, digital.ncdcr.gov/cdm/singleitem/collection/p249901coll44/id/1149/rec/104. Accessed 4 Jan. 2020. We used this image on the home page with the image slider of Elaine De Kooning working on Buckminster Fuller's Venetian Blind Strip Dome.
- Group Photo Taken at the Entrance to the Studies Building, Lake Eden Campus, Black Mountain College, Summer 1946. 1946. North Carolina Digital Collections,

  digital.ncdcr.gov/cdm/singleitem/collection/p249901coll44/id/1203/rec/116. Accessed 4

  Jan. 2020. We used this group picture of students outside the Studies Building, to go on the image slider on the home page.
- Johansen, Ati Gropius. *Still Life, Leaves*. Leap Before You Look: Black Mountain College, 1933-1957. This photo of the watercolor created by Ati Gropius Johansen will go with other pieces of art created at BMC to show the different styles of art that were unique for the time period.
- Karnes, Karen. This Is a Picture of a Candle Holder Sculpted by Karen Karnes . 1950, Leap Before You Look: Black Mountain College, 1933-1957. This photo of a sculpture by Karen Karnes will go with other examples of art from BMC. We included this one specifically to show that it wasn't just painting and drawing, but there were other things too like sculpting, writing, poetry, drama, and textile making.

- Newhall, Nancy. *Mae West*. Leap Before You Look: Black Mountain College, 1933-1957. This picture of a photo taken by Nancy Newhall was taken outside of Black Mountain College, looking onto lake Eden, this picture will go along with some other pictures as examples of the art from BMC
- "On Education." *The Josef and Anni Albers Foundation*, albersfoundation.org/teaching/josef-albers/lectures/#tab4. Accessed 21 Oct. 2019. This source is a speech by Josef Albers about his views on education. His views are very similar to the ideals of Black Mountain College.
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  Accessed 10 Oct. 2019. Interview. This source has an audio clip, and transcript of an

"Oral History Interview with Anni Albers 1961, July 5." Smithsonian Archives of American Art,

interview by Sevim Fesci with Anni Albers, a lady who was from Germany, who attended Bauhaus at Weimar, and how she ended up teaching at Black Mountain College.

- A Photograph of the Founder of Black Mountain College, John A. Rice. *North Carolina Digital Collections*, digital.ncdcr.gov/cdm/ref/collection/p249901coll44/id/1111. Accessed 2 Jan. 2020. This image is used on the "How It Started" page, to go along with the paragraph about schools before BMC, and how BMC got started.
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- A Photo of a Letter from Stan VanDerBeek about His Experience at Black Mountain College. 22

  Sept. 1949. Stan VanDerBeek Archive. This Letter has a first-hand account of a student at Black Mountain College, while he was going there.
- A Photo of Alma Stone Williams and Ruth Asawa. *Black Mountain College Museum and Arts Center*, www.blackmountaincollege.org/alma-stone-williams-collection/. Accessed 3 Jan. 2020. This website has a picture of Alma Stone Williams, that will go along with her paragraph on the Breaking Barriers page.
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  \*\*Black Mountain College Museum and Arts Center\*,

  www.blackmountaincollege.org/politicsdigitalportal/. Accessed 8 Jan. 2020. This is a photo of a newspaper article cover with a picture of Anni and Josef Albers, and a title that talks about Germans teaching at Black Mountain College.
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  \*Accessed 9 Jan. 2020. This is an image of one page of an FBI investigation into BMC.

A Photo of Ruth Asawa with Her Sculptures. Evening Standard,

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- Students and Teacher Buckminster Fuller Hanging from Their Project, the Geodesic Dome.

  \*Black Mountain College Museum and Arts Center\*,

- www.blackmountaincollege.org/looking-forward-at-buckminster-fullers-legacy/.

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  Mountain College. 22 Sept. 1949, Stan VanDerBeek Archive. This is a photo of a journal
  entry from Stan VanDerBeek about his experience at Black Mountain College. We got to
  see an exhibit about him while we did research on BMC at the Black Mountain College
  Museum and Arts Center. The most influential line of the letter is he starts it by saying
  "Today is my first day on campus (call it that) and various feeling of honesty, dishonesty,
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  who were feeling that way about the school, but to see these emotions coming from a
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## **Secondary Sources**

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  expulsion from Harvard.
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- "Black Mountain College: A Brief History" ["Black Mountain College: A Brief History"]. *Black Mountain College Museum and Arts Center*, www.blackmountaincollege.org/history/.

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2019. This source helps in our understanding of the accomplishments of artists of Black Mountain College. It also provides us with helpful links to pictures to use in our website. "Boston Museum Exhibit Celebrates Legacy of Black Mountain College." *Gale in Content High School*, 1 Dec. 2015,

go.gale.com/ps/retrieve.do?tabID=Audios&resultListType=RESULT\_LIST&searchResultsType=MultiTab&searchType=BasicSearchForm&currentPosition=1&docId=GALE%7CA437157286&docType=Audio+file%2C+Broadcast+transcript&sort=Relevance&contentSegment=ZXBK-MOD1&prodId=SUIC&contentSet=GALE%7CA437157286&searchId=R4&userGroupName=ncowl&inPS=true. Accessed 10 Oct. 2019. Interview. This Article an interview about a Boston Museum exhibit about the legacy of the Black Mountain College and its impact on today as well as some notable alumni and their works.

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Evening Standard, 1 May 2019,

www.standard.co.uk/lifestyle/ruth-asawa-google-doodle-japanese-american-artist-facts-q

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Digital Exhibition"]. *Black Mountain College Museum and Arts Center*,

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considering our project has the main emphasis on the political barriers broken by BMC this website was very helpful.

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  This is the school that Anni Albers and John Albers attended, but weren't very satisfied with before coming to Black Mountain College.