

Norman Borlaug: Agricultural Hero

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Individual Website

This past summer, my ambitious sister participated in the World Food Prize Global Youth Initiative. Accordingly, through this project she learned of its founder, Norman Borlaug, a man whose agricultural breakthroughs prevented mass starvation, preserving human lives by an unparalleled degree. When I inquired who Norman Borlaug was, she told me of his dedication and lifelong commitment to cultivating the agriculture of developing nations where the vast majority were starving. Thereupon, I was shocked that I had never been told, or let alone even heard of Norman Borlaug. How could a man, who saved more than one billion human lives from the grips of famine, be so scarcely known? Thus I was intrigued, if I had never heard of this model human being prior to my sisters research, to how many others was Norman Borlaug an unfamiliar name? How was it, that this benefactor of humanity had come to be forgotten? From this line of questioning, my topic was formed.

I began researching at the Public Library, exploring bookshelves and the archives for potential resources. I then expanded my research through the internet, encountering both websites and databases that provided excellent secondary sources. Once I had collected an adequate amount of information on the basics of my topic, I refined my search, pursuing primary sources. Subsequently, I recovered interviews, articles, and lectures which provided depth and accuracy to my research. Furthermore, I conducted an interview with former University of Minnesota Dean of Agriculture, who observed a Borlaug lecture. Through which, I gained an interviewing experience, as well as perspective. However, my most useful sources of information were those authored by, or featuring, Norman Borlaug himself. Whether such was a letter, report, lecture, or interview, reviewing documents which expressed an unaltered record of Borlaug's perspective viewpoint was crucial to developing my research and interpretation.

Selecting my presentation format was challenging, being my topic is scientifically based and

requires a more in depth approach to its subject matter. I initially wanted to attempt a historical paper. However further research revealed many visual aspects to Borlaug's work. Thus, I concluded the website format to be ideal, as it would enable me to display a thorough description, in addition to visual components. The construction of my website consisted primarily of the written content composition and revision. I then incorporated visual aids to support my written word, using both media and images to accentuate key components.

Through the development of higher yielding wheat varieties, Norman Borlaug became an agricultural hero. He led chronically hungry, developing countries, to self sufficiency in cereal production within a matter of years. Thus, Borlaug was assuming responsibility for the rights of individuals on a worldwide scale, restoring starving populations their moral right to food. Motivated internally to ensure every human being their right to a life free from starvation, Borlaug took responsibility as an agronomist, teacher, diplomat, and humanitarian. Refusing to remain idle in the face of starvation, Norman Borlaug dedicated his life to promoting the ethical rights of others.