

The cartoons of Herbert J. Block were iconic throughout many presidencies. We came across his work in our 2013 National History Day project on the Watergate Scandal. Upon research, we found that his career spanned decades, through fluctuating social views and a shifting political landscape in the United States. His fight for the rights of the average American, and the responsibility he bore fit with the 2014 theme in a unique way. Herblock's impact spreads far and wide; his ink bottle is splattered across American history. We chose Herblock as our topic because of the common man's rights and responsibilities he championed.

When starting our research, we began searching at the Cowles Library at Drake University. We found many books and articles in our preliminary research that became useful in analyzing Herblock's career. Between regionals, state and nationals, we interviewed more people and revised our website in many ways. Several Herb Block Foundation Prize winners discussed the immense impact Herblock had on their careers with us. Marcela Brané and Jean Rickard, the President and Vice President of The Herb Block Foundation were very influential, in addition to Sara Duke, the curator of the Herblock collection at the Library of Congress. We also attempted to contact Harry Katz, head curator for the Herblock Exhibitions and journalists at The Washington Post, but received no response. We relied heavily on primary sources available through the Library of Congress, The Washington Post, and Associated Press archives for visual components as well.

A website is the most comprehensive mode of presentation for a topic like Herblock. His striking cartoons became an integral part of the project in our website. Our textual analysis of his work coupled with the visuals, videos, and opinions from his colleagues and readers are thoroughly presented the best in this category. Considering Herblock created thousands of cartoons, utilizing Adobe Flash, with the help of teachers at our high school, we were able to allow the audience to digest the major themes of his portfolio. Working online through Weebly also made it easy to split up the workload and work collaboratively, as well as share the project with peers and teachers for feedback.

Many Washington Post readers saw Herblock's iconic "McCarthyism" and "I Am Not a Crook" cartoons and remember them to this day. That eternal memory is a rare effect of the unique work of a political cartoonist. Herbert Block was one of a kind. He upheld his right of free speech by expressing his opinions despite editorial pressure, and always made sure he was true to the facts. Herblock was responsible for bringing awareness to previously ignored issues: the African American perspective of civil rights, deterioration of the environment, and McCarthyism. He was always ahead of the curve, even in scandals such as Watergate, and always represented the people. Herbert Block upheld his rights and responsibilities to the people through his cartoons, and his messages and impact endure throughout history.