

Process Paper
Everett Bahe and Grayson Poppler

My partner and I chose the Washington Summit of 1987 as our topic because we were both somewhat interested in American History, and Presidents. This topic was very appealing at first because of the number of debates on this topic. This was an obvious choice for us.

This year's theme was Debate and Diplomacy. My partner and I stumbled upon this topic and thought it would fit this year's theme perfectly. Our topic, The Washington Summit of 1987, was filled with debates, the main debate being arms control. Our topic also led to diplomacy, which was the INF Treaty. Taking in these factors, my partner and I decided that this would be the perfect topic for us.

With our topic being related to politics, we found multiple .gov and .edu sources. This helped us find reliable, trustworthy sources. Because of this, our research was easy, we didn't have to worry about any false information because most of our sources were trusted. We found a lot of interesting information that would fit perfectly into a website.

We chose to do a website this year for multiple reasons. We ruled out documentaries right away because we had little to no videos. We ended up choosing to create a website because I had past experience with National History Day's website creator. My partner and I also thought a website would be more enjoyable to create.

How is our topic significant in history? The Washington Summit of 1987, a meeting between President of the United States, Ronald Reagan, and General Secretary of The Soviet Union, Mikhail Gorbachev, was a very significant meeting. This summit resulted in the signing of the INF treaty, arguably the most important part of the three days of debates. The INF treaty eliminated short to mid-range land-based missiles and prevented a possible nuclear war. Although commonly brushed over, the Washington Summit of 1987 was a big deal. The summit is also significant in history because of the outcome, the INF Treaty. The INF treaty eliminated the production of short to mid-range land-based missiles, and preventing a possible nuclear war.