

# Process Paper

My National History Day topic is Morse Code and how this system of communication changed the world over time. What drew me to this subject was my personal connection to it through my grandfather, who used Morse Code while he was in the Air Force during the *U. S. S. Pueblo* attack. The *U. S. S. Pueblo* attack was an intercept by the North Koreans on a Navy vessel. This incident is important in history because the attack commenced a negotiation that resulted in a release of eighty-two crewmen. My grandfather still remembers Morse Code to this day, and his explanation of his experiences always made me more intrigued. I wanted to know more, and eventually this topic seemed like the best choice.

I used multiple primary sources, which consisted of newspaper articles, pictures, videos, and an interview with my grandfather. When I interviewed my grandfather, Joseph Carl Dodson, I learned about his first hand experience with Morse Code and his time in the service. A source I used as a primary source was an article on Tim Robinson and how Morse Code saved his life. It explained the connection between Morse Code and its impact on many lives. The primary sources I used were very beneficial to my website, because they had information about people's personal experiences.

The secondary sources I used were for information to help me gain knowledge about Morse Code and its impact. Some of my most reliable secondary sources were Britannica and *The Washington Post*. Britannica is what I used most, because it explained a great deal about Samuel Morse, the telegraph, Morse Code's impact, and how we use it today. The *Washington Post* had interesting facts and was easy to read. These sources helped me get a good background and a better understanding of my topic.

While creating my website, I struggled getting started, because there was so much to learn. Eventually I got going and ended with an amazing result. I started by researching my overall questions about Morse Code and digging deeper into Morse Code's background. Then, I learned about Morse Code during wartime and how Morse Code impacted society through the years of its evolution. Then I chose my color scheme and layout of my website. I liked the black and white theme, with a touch of red. Finally, I added in my information, with pictures, videos, and quotes.

Morse Code relates to the theme of "Communication in History." At the time, the means of communication consisted of letters, smoke signals, and face-to-face conversations. Samuel Morse invented a new way of communicating, with faster and immediate technology. The telegraph and

Morse Code were the beginning of a communication revolution that would include the telegraph, the telephone, radio, and eventually the internet. This way of communication impacted outcomes of wars, transportation, and technology, which influenced how our world is today.