Process Paper:

When I heard that this year's theme is Communication in History: The Key to Understanding, I immediately thought of the media and how it influenced recent elections. I thought about all the recent elections that happened, but the 1960 Presidential election was the one that I chose. The 1960 election was interesting because of the use of television and the very first televised debate. I also wanted to know more about the 1960 election that most people have told me about.

To start with the research process, I first did basic research on the 1960 Presidential election by entering it in the Google search engine and on YouTube. I read articles about the election and watched documentaries and videos about it as well. After figuring out about the sections of this topic to divide the information, I started to create a rough draft of the section. I needed more in-depth information, so I started to do more research into the topic. Britannica and the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum were two important sources I used. They give detailed, yet concise information that had a lot of sources to use. When I started researching the topic, I only knew the basic information about the 1960 Presidential election, but now I understand both sides of the candidates and the greater context of media presence in the election.

After researching the 1960 Presidential election, I decided to create a website for it. Since the media had news articles and press coverage that can only be easily interpreted in photos and videos, my teacher recommended creating a website. I made the website using the NHD Website Entry Builder. At first, I wanted to create a rough layout of the website on paper, but then I decided against it and instead built the rough layout on the website. It helped me visualize the entirety of the website and the format that I was going to use.

My website fits this year's theme of Communication in History: The Key to Understanding because of how the media was able to communicate their ideas and the candidate's ideas on television and paper. The first televised presidential debate was immensely important. With different newspaper titles dictating different information, readers often interpret the information differently, leading to contrasting ideas. This influences the outcome of the election. The media has always been a prevalent force behind elections. The media played a pivotal role in the 1960 Presidential election, determining the President-elected through various ways of communicating ideas and actions.