

**The International Space Station:
The U.S. and Russian Debate and Diplomatic Tug of War Surrounding the ISS**

2021-2022

**Debate & Diplomacy in History:
Successes, Failures, Consequences**

Audrey Kim

Individual Website

Junior Division

Student Composed Words: 1,198

Process Paper: 497

Multimedia: 2:46

Process Paper

My love of history and my passion for doing new things was the perfect trait for NHD, however this also caused some difficulties. I had a collection of ideas, but did not know which to use. Although I loved every single topic which included the Scopes Monkey Trial, World War I, and the Cuban Missile Crisis, I wanted to do something both unique and which I admired. During that time, I was reading a book on my Kindle, “We Dream of Space”, which mesmerized me and, upon finishing the novel, I immediately went online to research the International Space Station and other space related topics. Of course, I could have chosen anything for the NHD project, but I had to be very picky as there were many options. I chose a topic related to the ISS because I love learning new things, and I knew very little about it. Similar to the book, I wanted to cover spaceship and rocket failures; however, I couldn’t find the ‘Debate and Diplomacy’ angle. I eventually decided on the history of the ISS and the Gore-Chernomyrdin Commission.

The primary source to my findings were old newspapers, documents, and videos about the Gore-Chernomyrdin Commission. They provided copious amounts of information about what was discussed and the agreements that had been made, which helped me a lot with the Debate and Diplomacy pages. This was very helpful because there was a lack of available information about the topic. The riveting part of doing this project was learning something about the Commission and ISS everyday, despite the scarce sources.

Secondary sources were journals and websites about the Gore-Chernomyrdin Commission. As these sources were written during the contemporary period and other historical events around the International Space Station, they were super helpful. Not only did they help with providing me with an abundance of information, but they also provided a host of relevant images.

Out of all the categories, I chose to do the website because I love coding. I had some background knowledge about website building because I created one for my YouTube channel, the primary focus being environmental news. Furthermore, the information I could put on a website was ample, including videos, quotes, and pictures; all crucial for making it as descriptive as possible. The 1200 word count was very helpful as well because I wanted my website to be as informative as possible. The NHD website builder was super fun and useful to use and create my

website with. Additionally, it was easy to use and had almost no restrictions about what you could do.

The creation of the ISS, the first internationally built space station, is a huge milestone for space exploration. This topic is perfect for this year's theme, 'Debate & Diplomacy in History: Successes, Failures, Consequences'. This is because the creation of the ISS was, from start to finish, a diplomatic and debating issue, starting from inviting Russia to the ISS, and ending at Russia's threats to leave the agreement.