

## **Process Paper**

I chose the Interstate Highways System as my turning point in history. The idea came to me shortly after a family road trip to Florida. I realized that I do not just use the Interstate Highway System for long road trips, it is something that I also use every day when I go to school, sports, and other activities. After some initial research, I learned that without it my food would not be as fresh, my school supplies would not be as readily available, and long-distance travel would not be as easy. It intrigued me that such a vital part of our society can go so unnoticed. I had to learn more.

I began my research by collecting foundational knowledge on the events that took place relevant to my topic. I used this knowledge in structuring my research and then created notecards to organize and document my findings. Both the Federal Highway Administration and several state highway departments served as great sources of information. My class also visited a university library where I collected several primary sources that aided in my research. Lastly, I was able to land an interview with Richard Weingroff, a knowledgeable member of the Federal Highway Administration. Overall, I am proud of my research and was exceedingly fortunate for all my excellent resources and experiences.

One reason I chose a website was because of my love of technology. Last year, I did a documentary, so a website offered an exciting new challenge within technology. The other reason was because a website was the best option for displaying my research. During the construction of my website, I first drafted my student-composed words, quotes, and images in a separate document, and then transferred the final, polished product to the website. One challenge I encountered with the website builder was the manual work required to perfect the website's layout. As I progressed through the levels of competition, I diligently sought feedback on my website from judges, teachers, mentors, and parents to produce the best possible result. The experience I enjoyed most about NHD was watching my website evolve and come together after months of research into something I could feel proud of.

The Interstate Highway System has become a major turning point that has improved travel and transformed the American economy, society, and way of life. It has enabled businesses to scale their operations quickly and economically, ultimately boosting the nation's economy and international competitiveness. It has also strongly influenced everyday life in America, including where people live as well as the services and stores available to them. While largely beneficial to the nation, the construction of the Interstate Highways was also a devastating turning point across the country as it disproportionately leveled or cut through several low-income and minority communities,

further exacerbating the social, physical, and financial hardships of their residents. It is important to acknowledge both the positive and negative effects of the Interstate Highways to truly appreciate how they have transformed our lives to this day.