

Process Paper

After hearing that my history class would be participating in National History Day with the theme of Communication in History, I immediately thought about propaganda. I have always been intrigued by propaganda and how it can be used to change people's outlook on certain things. After asking my teacher if propaganda would be fine, I had to begin narrowing my topic down. First I thought about doing something surrounding the propaganda campaigns released during the Cultural Revolution in China during the reign of Mao Tse-tung. After not being able to find much information on this, I started leaning more towards the Cold War between the United States and Soviet Russia. This is how I got the title America's Cold Red Nightmare. After doing some quick research about this war and the propaganda campaigns associated with it, I decided to stick with it.

All of my research was done online. I explored a variety of websites which had information about the Cold War. But since I was focusing more on the propaganda associated with this "war" and how it affected the people of America, I had to look closer. I found many websites with propaganda from this time, it ranged from simple posters to movies. Some of the most valuable sources I found were a couple of films from that time which had anti soviet propaganda in them. To some people watching these films today it wouldn't seem like anything was off about them, but after taking a closer look at them you can see what was being implied. Throughout working on this project, my knowledge of the Cold War grew. All of these websites, photos, and videos I found online about the Cold War really helped me create this project.

I decided to do a website because it seemed like the easiest way to get my point across. It allowed me to include photos and videos which I wanted in my project. I made my website with NHD website builder since they recommended/preferred it. A website is also far easier to navigate through. I drew out a very rough website outline on paper and tried to bring it to life using the NHD website builder. I played around with the website builder until I knew how to navigate it with ease. If the creator of a website can't navigate the website, how is someone else supposed to?

My topic relates to the theme of Communication in History because propaganda is a form of communication. It helped spread a message across America during these tense times. And this message was capitalism is good and communism is evil. With these messages beginning to be engraved in the minds of the American people, it began to become more prominent that it was working. But was this all really for the best?