

## Process Paper

After watching the NHD theme introduction video, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's Fireside Chats stood out as an interesting topic to us; presidential communication has been especially relevant in the present, with modern presidents using social media to communicate. We did a small amount of research to gain a better understanding of the Fireside Chats, learning that they were radio broadcasts in which the President directly communicated important information and words of encouragement towards citizens. Then, we learned that the Fireside Chats were a unique form of presidential communication in many aspects, such as the time period in which they were broadcasted, the information presented within them, and FDR's excellent radio voice. The authenticity and effectiveness of the Fireside Chats were why we chose them as our topic.

To get a basic understanding of our topic, we first searched the internet for secondary sources about the Fireside Chats and the events surrounding them, such as the Great Depression and World War II. As we constructed our thesis and outlined our project, we narrowed our research down to specific topics and materials which would be relevant to our project. For example, we wanted to include multiple perspectives on the Fireside Chats, so we spent time looking for letters from citizens to FDR which addressed the Fireside Chats, both positively and negatively.

After gaining a good understanding of the Fireside Chats, we finalized our historical argument: U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt's radio broadcasts known as the "Fireside Chats," broadcasted from 1933-1944, were a revolutionary method of communicating to citizens. These radio broadcasts were both personal and informative; they raised morale and boosted the confidence of citizens during that time. The Fireside Chats would inspire presidents and officials

after FDR to directly communicate to citizens in a similar personal manner, utilizing the latest technologies.

We then separated the information from our research into different sections (which would eventually become webpages), each of which would support our historical argument. We drafted the sections of our website in PowerPoint. During the drafting, we searched for primary source images which were relevant to our webpages. Finally, we took the content from our PowerPoint draft and used the NHD website builder to create our final website. Making our website look aesthetically pleasing was quite a challenge; the colors, font, and spacing were difficult to get right.

The Fireside Chats were significant in history because they were the first notable instance of a president directly communicating to the general public. The Fireside Chats were also an effective measure of keeping citizens calm and informed during two major crises: The Great Depression and World War II. They allowed citizens to receive trustworthy information directly from the President, rather than receiving possibly biased information through the press.