Process Paper

From the very start, I was very intrigued by Lyndon Johnson's presidency because of the known program he conducted called the Great Society. It was interesting to me for two reasons: 1) Its ideology carried was very similar to the New Deal in the 1930s, but it was commonly regarded in a very different light 2) America's not been very well known as a welfare state; instead, ideas such as self-reliance was often an integral part of American culture (and indeed, even in Johnson's time he didn't view it as welfare programs). To me, that was something not foreseen and it was one important time period that constituted a major part of the federal government's budget nowadays (even after so many decades of threats of reducing it, those bills were still there and not overturned). That's why I thought it was appropriate to be called a "frontier": a frontier in both interventionist liberalism and welfare in America.

I conducted my research by first following what our history teacher told us. Our history teachers first asked us to write down questions that we would divide our project into, and I did that and first searched up general ideas about the Great Society to get an overview of the objectives of the program and what it achieved. Now, of course, the programs themselves were still very much controversial today, so unlike a research of the Civil War I do not have an orthodox view of what Johnson achieved, therefore I also integrated how different people then and now viewed the Great Society as an important part in my research. Specific events that happened during Johnson's presidency were also a minor but unalienable part in my research (somewhat surprisingly, the Great Society was heavily tied with the Civil Rights Movement, as

Martin Luther King Jr. often talked about how poverty shaped black people to be the way they are with Johnson, so how Johnson's programs acted on those people were also quite important). While I conduct research, I will continue to raise more questions. The final part I should do is to organize these pieces together and rephrase my line of reasoning more clearly to show my historical argument.

Through my research, I decided to explore the bitter arguments present now and now on the extent of the interventionist nature of these domestic programs and whether they had actually made things worse.

By the time I congregate these ideas, I decided to do a website to present my research as it would be creative and I can do it individually. Thus, I looked for design ideas first in the whitehouse.gov, since my topic is very related to the federal government. Then I decided to first make the outline and substantiate it over time. The final presentation was thus divided into 5 parts and had a color design different from what I originally intended. Building a website was fun and interactive, and it helped me organize my thoughts.