

Process Paper

Our first step in the NHD process was selecting our topic. We were all interested in astronomy, so we wanted to research an innovation in space. Putting a man on the moon in 1969 was a landmark event in space, and we found it to be a very interesting topic to research.

We first started researching secondary sources, such as books and websites, so we could get a good overview of the event. To find primary sources, we went on to World Book Online. We found public papers of Richard Nixon about the Apollo 11 mission. One of the most important parts of our research was the newspapers. Most of them were published the day after NASA put a man on the moon. The newspapers mainly showed how everyone all around the world was affected by this event. We found volumes from Italy, Mexico, Thailand, etc. All of the newspapers that we used in our documentary were found on microfilm at the Suzzalo library at the University of Washington.

A documentary was the perfect way to express our creativity. It allowed us to incorporate many pictures and sounds into our presentation, whereas other entries didn't. We first took a plethora of notes, and acquired parts of Kennedy's speech from 1961, and video clips on Neil Armstrong and "Buzz" Aldrin on the moon. We wrote an outline to our script so that we would know what other information we needed to research. Then we started writing out script for what we were going to say during our documentary, we drafted out script and edited it many times until perfection was reached. When we finally started our documentary we had to take a lot of things into consideration such as, only having it be 10 minutes long but still making sure we include all of the needed information, pictures, speeches, and video clips. To compile our documentary, we used a 30-day trial of the Vegas Pro program, as recommended by Scott Knapp.

The theme for this year's National History Day competition is Innovation in History: Impact and Change. Our topic was ideal for this theme because it had a major impact in technology, psychology and science. Without the Apollo 11 missions and the technology that was developed to put a man on the moon, we wouldn't be anywhere nearly as technologically advanced as we are today. Since so many people focused their attention on placing a man on the moon before the end of the decade, technology was increasing rapidly. This major event also had a huge impact on everyone's perspective on science and space exploration. Putting a man on the moon inspired millions of people throughout the world, giving them hope, and changing their focus back to the earth. It displayed America's dominance in the world and the cold war.