

Process Paper

When we first heard of the opportunity to participate in National History Day, we were excited. However, we did not know what we wanted to do for our topic. There were many topics that we could have chosen, but we tried to go with a lesser-known topic. Eventually, the topic that we chose to focus on was the Alaskan Purchase. We thought of this topic while researching what the meanings of debate and diplomacy were. When we were searching up debates throughout history, we found one that we hadn't heard of before, the Alaskan Purchase. We quickly became intrigued with this topic and decided to choose it. We believe that this topic relates to our theme because many people called this purchase "Seward's Folly," indicating that the Secretary of State had made a mistake, instead of calling it the Alaskan Purchase. We are very excited to have made it to the national level, and we have thoroughly enjoyed the National History Day experience.

The way that we conducted our research for this project was through books and online sources. We started out by figuring out the initial facts of this purchase and using sites that are commonly known for historical information. Then, we sat down and focused on all the different effects that could have come from this and searched them up as well.

For our project, we chose to do the website option. This option seemed like the best choice for us since we don't see each other besides school and it was a great way to get this project done in a way that both of us could equally contribute. The two of us have our own strengths and this was a way that we could express them. We knew that we were good with technology, in the form of websites, therefore we believed this was the best option.

In the process of going to the National Level, we have made many changes and or improvements to our website. When we first finished our website at the County level we had about 500 words, now we have almost 1200 words. When we first got our judges recommendations we sat down and worked on the most important details, then we went back

and worked on the lesser and or smaller details. In the end we are thrilled with the result of our project and happy we have made it this far.

The Alaskan Purchase is a superb example of Debate and Diplomacy. The main conflict was when William Seward bought Alaska from Russia, angering many American citizens. The citizens began to call this "Seward's Folly" or his mistake. The conflict has been resolved slightly due to the beneficial aspects that came out of the purchase. This topic is very significant because the land that America owned increased, gold was found, and it is a profitable oil location. These are the reasons that we believe our topic is significant and that it relates to the annual theme.