

Process Paper

When I was researching the U.S. Marine Corps for a project, “The Battle of Saipan” popped up. I was very intrigued by this as I had never heard about it. I decided to look more into it out of curiosity and I found out that this was one of the most important and critical battles in the history of World War II, because it was a stepping stone for the bombings of Japan. After researching a few more sources, I realized that it was perfect for my National History Day project.

I started my research by searching the internet for secondary sources that would give me some details about the battle that were vital to my project. After that I had to understand why this battle was so tragic. To do this I got some books from the library of University of Maryland to find information about why and how the battle was fought. I also visited the National Museum of the Marine Corps and got an image of what it was like to the participants of the battle. From there I was referred to visit The Gray Research Center, the library at the Marine Corps University located in Quantico, Virginia. There I talked to Greg Cina, the head of the Research Library. I acquired some excellent sources from there that I used to improve my project. He also suggested that I contact Dr. Jim Ginther, an archivist at the Marine Corps History Division. I sent an email to him to see if I could acquire any more helpful sources, and he was kind enough to compile a CD full of archive materials related to “The Battle of Saipan.” I also visited Dr. Nathan Packard, Professor of Military History at the Command and Staff College and got many helpful resources that included oral interviews, books, and official publications of U.S.M.C.

I chose to make a website mostly because I thought it would be a new experience for me as I have never built any website before and I enjoy learning new things. I also liked the idea that I could use text, pictures, and video clips in a website; websites also have a strong reputation for

being easy to understand and have an impact on the person reading it. Not only was this fun to make, but it also taught me how to organize and categorize information well.

“The Battle of Saipan” is a perfect fit for this year’s topic, “Triumph or Tragedy” as so many people were killed or committed suicide while the island was being secured. This battle allowed the two nuclear bombs to be dropped on Japan, as a result millions of lives were lost. However, this led to the end of the war. Without Saipan in American control, the Japanese would not have surrendered, and the war would have raged on much longer. Moreover, it helped the U.S. to establish a view of itself as one of the world’s most formidable military powers.