

My Lai's Outcry!

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Group Exhibit

Junior division

Student-composed words: 500

Process paper: 469 words

Process Paper

The topic that we chose for the National History Day project is the My Lai Massacre, which took place during the Vietnam War. We decided to do an event in the Vietnam War because we knew many people who participated in the war and were affected by the war. The My Lai Massacre was an event that had seemed interesting to us as it involved the soldiers on the battlefield. We also believed that the My Lai Massacre fit better with the theme of the National History Day project this year.

When we reached the research stage of our project, we decided on what part of the massacre each of us would research. One person researched the Vietnam War before the My Lai Massacre so that we could get an idea of what the army morale was like beforehand and what had started the Vietnam War itself. We then had two people research the My Lai Massacre itself because there were so many different aspects of the massacre (points of view, timelines, and the people who were leading, directing, and committing the massacre). The third part that we researched was the end result of the massacre, the trials and investigations of the massacre, and how the massacre affected the United States through protests. The most helpful sites that we found were History.com and sites that displayed timelines because they both gave us a very clear idea of what happened.

After we had completed all of the necessary research, we decided to present the project in an exhibit. We decided on an exhibit to present our project visually, artistically, and clearly to the audience. The cube design we decided on allows for a four-sided presentation, giving each of the four members of our group a side to present the portion of the research that they gathered in the past months. The four sides that we made cover the different topics of the start of the Vietnam War, the My Lai Massacre, the trials and investigations into the massacre, and how the massacre fueled anti-war sentiment.

The theme of the National History Day project this year was "Conflict and Compromise". Our project relates to this theme because the My Lai Massacre was an event in which there was conflict between the Viet Cong and the American soldiers, causing the massacre itself. The American Army decided to compromise with upper levels of the departments who were involved in the massacre to cover up the event so that no one would know what had happened in Vietnam. However, the cover up failed, causing the USA government to find compromises on the sentencing and conviction of the men that were involved in the massacre. This topic and event proved to be a good learning tool for how conflict and compromise really works.

My Lai Outcry

Annotated Bibliography

Primary Sources

Bring Them Home Alive. KCET.org, KCET, 27 Oct. 2011, www.kcet.org/shows/lost-la/3-protests-from-la-history-that-got-the-publics-attention. Accessed 10 Mar. 2018.

This is a primary source, it is a picture of a poster someone created and it held an event where people would come and protest against the war. This gives our project a visual and it is different than other pictures involving the protests.

Chernus, Ira. *Vietnam War Protesters in 1966. Common Dreams*, 2 Feb. 2016, www.commondreams.org/views/2016/02/02/americas-new-vietnam-middle-east. Accessed 10 Mar. 2018.

This is a primary source from commondreams.org. Its a good visual of a protest in America during the time period of the war. This also shows how children were involved in protests and that they were effected too.

"Dwight D. Eisenhower." *History.com*, A+E Networks, www.history.com/speeches/eisenhower-intervenes-in-little-rock-crisis. Accessed 1 Mar. 2018.

This is a primary source of a painting of Dwight D. Eisenhower. This image shows what Eisenhower looked like during his lifetime.

Elliott, Larry. "Helmut Schmidt: 'Britain's empire has gone, though you think it still exists.'" *The*

Guardian, 22 Dec. 2013. theguardian.com,

www.theguardian.com/world/2013/dec/22/helmut-schmidt-europe-crisis-interview.

Accessed 1 Mar. 2018

This is a primary source because it is a quote from someone who experienced the time period. This is a quote from an international perspective during the time of the Vietnam War and this quote shows the perspective they had on the topic of the anti-war protests.

We used this quote on our board.

End the War in Indochina Vietnam Now, 2017. *Emaze.com*, 2017,

www.emaze.com/@AQTZORZF/anti-war. Accessed 10 Mar. 2018.

This photo says "End the War in Indochina Vietnam Now." It is a primary source because it was taken at an actual protest in the U.S.A. This is a very important source because it gives a visual of a protest.

Eszterhas, Joseph. "Cameraman Saw GIs Slay 100 Villagers." *The Plain Dealer* [Cleveland,

Ohio], 20 Nov. 1969. *Cleveland.com*,

www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2017/09/see_my_lai_massacre_photos_as.html.

Accessed 7 Nov. 2017.

This is a primary source as it includes a photo of what the scene was like at My Lai after the massacre had happened. This is also a picture of the original newspaper that broke the news of the My Lai Massacre to the United States of America. This is important to our project because it gives the audience an idea of the horrors that occurred in My Lai, which connects back to the statement in our thesis that states, "The brutal My Lai Massacre during the Vietnam War..."

Feller, Bob. Telephone interview. By Ellie Lawson. 10 Dec. 2017.

This is a primary source, as the interviewee, Bob Feller, was a soldier in the Vietnam War. He was able to give us important insight into the war, such as the army morale during the war and how it was changing. This was an important addition to our project, as it gives us information about the war, such as the example stated above. This also gives us as a group another opinion and quotable source to use in our exhibit.

Hersh, Seymour M. "The Scene of the Crime." *The New Yorker*, 30 Mar. 2015. *The New Yorker*, www.newyorker.com/magazine/2015/03/30/the-scene-of-the-crime. Accessed 1 Mar. 2018.

This gave us a primary source. It included a story from one of the soldiers involved in the massacre. It gave insight into what it was like to be in the massacre from a first-hand account.

Ho Chi Minh, leader of North Vietnam, in 1969. *Thought Co*, www.thoughtco.com/ho-chi-minh-195778. Accessed 1 Mar. 2018.

This primary source was a image of Ho Chi Minh. This image shows the audience what Ho Chi Minh looks like to go along with the description of him.

James, Frank. "William Calley Makes First Public Apology for Vietnam War's My Lai Massacre." *NPR*, 21 Aug. 2009, www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2009/08/william_calley_makes_first_pub.html. Accessed 8 Nov. 2017.

This was a primary source, as the source had specific quotes from William Calley. We used these quotes in our project to show people that Calley did apologize for his actions in the My Lai Massacre. This helped our group gain more information on what Calley did about the massacre after he participated in it.

"John F. Kerry Quotes." *Brainyquote.com*, www.brainyquote.com/quotes/john_f_kerry_160198.

Accessed 1 Mar. 2018.

This is a primary source because it was said by someone who experienced the time period. This quote shows a US citizen's perspective on both the war and the protests to stop it. We used this quote on our board.

Lafon, Douglas. Interview. 9 Dec. 2017.

This source is a primary source because the interviewee, Mr. Doug Lafon, was present and in combat as part of the navy during the Vietnam War. He experienced the war first hand, therefore making this a primary source. This is important to our project as Mr. Lafon has a combatant perspective on the way the war was going and what the morale within the soldiers and navy was like during this war.

"A Letter from Ron Ridenhour regarding the My Lai Massacre (1969)." *Alpha History*, alphahistory.com/vietnamwar/ron-ridenhour-letter-congress-1969/. Accessed 3 Mar. 2018.

This is a primary source because it has the original letter that Ronald Ridenhour sent to the government. This letter is important because the letter compromised the cover up of the My Lai Massacre.

Lt. William Calley arrives for his court martial in 1971 at Fort Benning, Georgia. *Time.com*, 17 Aug. 2013, nation.time.com/2013/08/18/field-of-dishonor-famous-american-court-martials/slide/lieut-william-calley/. Accessed 1 Mar. 2018.

This source provided a photograph, which is a primary source. This photograph was of William Calley arriving at his court martial in 1971.

This is a source from HISTORY.com. It was very insightful because it shows a United States flag with a peace sign on it and it shows that people didn't believe that America was living by its flag and they weren't peaceful. It gives a good visual and it shows a clear stance of the American people at the time.

"The Peers Report." *Military Legal Resources*, 10 Dec. 1974,

www.loc.gov/rr/frd/Military_Law/pdf/RDAR-Vol-I.pdf. Accessed 30 Oct. 2017.

This is a primary source as the person who contributed the information to it was Gen. William R. Peers, who was the chairman of the Peers Inquiry into the massacre. This source gave us an idea of all the crimes that were committed at or as a result of the My Lai Massacre. We used a quote from this source on our board to demonstrate what the Peers Report said.

ReadingPictures. www.readingthepictures.org/2013/10/my-lai-sexual-assault-and-the-black-blouse-girl-forty-five-years-later-one-of-americas-most-iconic-photos-hides-truth-in-plain-sight/.

This is a primary source because the photographer was present during the time of the event. The image shows a woman in a black blouse after being sexually harassed by the soldiers. The image was included on our project to demonstrate the atrocities of the massacre.

Ron Ridenhour. *PBS.org*,

www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/my-lai-selected-men-involved-my-lai/.

Accessed 1 Mar. 2018.

This image is a primary source. This source provided an image of Ron Ridenhour, the man that compromised the My Lai Massacre secret.

"Rusty Calley." *Libcom.org*, libcom.org/history/%E2%80%9Crusty-calley-scapegoat%E2%80%9D-culpability-my-lai-massacre.

The pictures that we used from this source are considered to be primary sources. These pictures gave us a visual to help understand how terrible of an event the massacre was. We put these pictures on our board to help explain visually to the audience how terrible an event this massacre was too.

Senator John Kerry Presidential Campaign Announcement. Performance by John F. Kerry, C-SPAN.com, 2003.

This is a primary source because it was said by someone who experienced the time period. This quote shows a US soldier's and Presidential candidate's perspective on both the war and the protests to stop it. We used this quote on our board.

Student Vietnam War Protesters. *Common Lit*, 2016, www.commonlit.org/texts/resistance-to-the-vietnam-war. Accessed 10 Mar. 2018.

This is a primary source. It was an actual photo taken of students protesting. This is an important source because it shows that not only adults were protesting students were too. It was effecting everyone.

Turner, Ron. Interview. By Ellie Lawson.

This is a primary source because the interviewee, Ron Turner, was a soldier in the military during the time of the Vietnam War. Though Mr. Turner fought in Thailand, he was a good source into the operations of the military and how the military worked at the time. He also gave us opinions and quotes that we were able to incorporate into our project as quotes in our exhibit.

"Vietnam Flag." *World Atlas*, www.worldatlas.com/webimage/flags/countrys/asia/vietnam.htm.

Accessed 1 Mar. 2018.

This is a primary source because is attributed to the photographer who had to be there to photograph it. This is an image of the Vietnamese flag and we used it on our project to show what it the flag looked like.

Vietnam Soldiers. *Vietnam Full Disclosure*,

vietnamfulldisclosure.org/index.php/mike-hastie-photo-essay/. Accessed 1 Mar. 2018.

This primary source shows a soldier tossing an object into a fire. This source gives an idea about what the Vietnam War was like when the soldiers were out in the battlegrounds.

Vietnam War. The National WWII Musuem, 18 Sept. 2017,

www.nationalww2museum.org/war/articles/vietnam-war. Accessed 15 Mar. 2018.

This source is from the National World War II Museum and it is a primary source. This source is very reliable and this picture gives a good visual and a good image of the Vietnam War.

The Washington Post. [www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/45-years-after-my-lai-massacres-](http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/45-years-after-my-lai-massacres-survivors-mourn-a-lost-generation/2013/03/15/54fb83be-8766-11e2-999e-5f8e0410cb9d_story.html?utm_term=.bcc3292534e8)

[survivors-mourn-a-lost-generation/2013/03/15/54fb83be-8766-11e2-999e-](http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/45-years-after-my-lai-massacres-survivors-mourn-a-lost-generation/2013/03/15/54fb83be-8766-11e2-999e-5f8e0410cb9d_story.html?utm_term=.bcc3292534e8)

[5f8e0410cb9d_story.html?utm_term=.bcc3292534e8](http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/45-years-after-my-lai-massacres-survivors-mourn-a-lost-generation/2013/03/15/54fb83be-8766-11e2-999e-5f8e0410cb9d_story.html?utm_term=.bcc3292534e8).

This source provided a primary source. This primary source is the story of a survivor from the My Lai Massacre. It shows what it was like for the villagers during the massacre from a first-hand account.

William Calley. *Alphahistory.com*, alphahistory.com/vietnamwar/william-calley/. Accessed 1

Mar. 2018.

This photograph is a primary source. The source provided an image of William Calley, the only man sentenced for the My Lai Massacre.

William R. Peers. *PBS.org*, www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/my-lai-selected-men-involved-my-lai/. Accessed 1 Mar. 2018.

This image is a primary source. It shows an image of William R. Peers, the head of the investigation into My Lai.

Williams, Bob. Interview. 10 Dec. 2017.

Bob Williams was a soldier during the Vietnam War. He was primary source and had good information on what the war was like and what it was like to be a soldier. He also explained an average American soldier's perspective on communism.

Yurko, Joe. Interview. 10 Dec. 2017.

This is a primary source as the interviewee, Joe Yurko, was a soldier in the Vietnam War. He gave us an good insight into the Vietnam War and what things on the American home front were like at the time. He gave us quotes to use on our board and a broader understanding of the Vietnam War time period.

Secondary Sources

american experience. www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/films/mylai/.

This is a secondary source because the author of this source was not present during the Vietnam War. This source did give us a very good overview of what happened the day during the massacre giving us an idea of what happened at each time.

Bilton, Michael. "Hugh Thompson." *The Guardian*, 11 Jan. 2006,

www.theguardian.com/news/2006/jan/11/guardianobituaries.usa. Accessed 3 Mar. 2018.

This secondary source talks about the My Lai Massacre and the events that occurred. It focuses in more on Hugh Thompson and his role in the massacre.

"Calley Apologizes for Role in My Lai Massacre." *NBC News*, 21 Aug. 2009, www.nbcnews.com/id/32514139/ns/us_news-military/t/calley-apologizes-role-my-lai-massacre/#.WqQu_ezwbIU. Accessed 1 Mar. 2018.

This is a secondary source. It talks about Calley's apology for the My Lai Massacre. It discusses the Calley's apology and what Calley had done in the My Lai Massacre.

Chambers, John Whiteclay. "My Lai Massacre." *Encyclopedia - Online Dictionary/Encyclopedia.com: Get Facts, Articles, Pictures, Video*, 2000, www.encyclopedia.com/history/asia-and-africa/southeast-asia-history/my-lai-incident#MyLaiMassacre. Accessed 4 Oct. 2017.

This is a secondary source as it gives an overall description of what was happening during the cover up of the massacre. The author of this source was also not present or did not know about the event when the event was taking place. This information is important to our project because it describes the original compromise that the USA Army wanted to have. It also describes how the cover up was used, which is important to our project as this was part of the crime that was committed as a result of the My Lai Massacre.

Cosgrove, Ben. "American Atrocity: Remembering My Lai." *Time.com*, 13 Mar. 2013, time.com/3739572/american-atrocity-remembering-my-lai/. Accessed 6 Oct. 2017.

This source is a secondary source because the author was not present for the event. But, the author did give us a good understanding of the information that Ron Haerberle took the photos that eventually lead to the My Lai Massacre secret being blown. This

information was included in our board, though we did not use a direct quote from this source.

Digital History. 2016,

www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/active_learning/explorations/vietnam/vietnam_mylai.cfm.

Accessed 27 Sept. 2017.

This secondary source gives an overview of the events of the My Lai Massacre and the trials that occur after it. This helped us to show a summary of the Vietnam War and the My Lai Massacre.

"Ernest Medina." *Trial International*, 5 Aug. 2016, trialinternational.org/latest-post/ernest-medina/. Accessed 3 Mar. 2018.

This secondary source talks about Ernest Medina and his life. It gives information about how Medina was involved in the My Lai Massacre.

Gilbert, Marc Jason. "My Lai Massacre." *World Book Advanced*, World Book,

www.worldbookonline.com/advanced/article?id=ar751647&st=my+lai+massacre#tab=homepage. Accessed 28 Sept. 2017.

This source is a secondary source because the author was not present during the event.

This source did give us important information on the trials of the men involved in the massacre, like the information that Calley was the only one convicted of the crime of the My Lai Massacre. Though we did not directly put anything from this source on our board, we did use the information that we gained from this source on the final project.

History.com. www.history.com/topics/vietnam-war/my-lai-massacre. Accessed 1 Mar. 2018

History.com is a secondary source as the author of this source was not present during the event. This source gave an overview of the My Lai Massacre and how each event lead to

the next event. This was important to our project because it gave us a great overview on everything that happened during the massacre and what happened after.

History.com Staff. "My Lai Massacre." *History.com*, A+E Networks, 2009,

www.history.com/topics/vietnam-war/my-lai-massacre. Accessed 14 Jan. 2018.

This source was vital in providing us with the major events and groups involved in the massacre. It described the Charlie Company, William Calley, Hugh Thompson, the cover up of the massacre, and the impact that the massacre had on the rest of the world. This source is secondary because it was a summary of the event.

---. "The My Lai Massacre Takes Place in Vietnam." *History.com*, A+E Networks, 2010,

www.history.com/this-day-in-history/my-lai-massacre-takes-place-in-vietnam. Accessed 3 Mar. 2018.

This article is a secondary source. It was about why the My Lai Massacre happened. It also included how the massacre happened.

---. "My Lai Trial Begins." *History.com*, A+E Networks, 2009, www.history.com/this-day-in-history/my-lai-trial-begins.

Accessed 1 Mar. 2018.

This is a secondary source because the author was not present for the event. This source focused on information about the cover up of the massacre. We included a quote on our board.

---. "Vietnam War Timeline." *History.com*, A+E Networks, 2017,

www.history.com/topics/vietnam-war-timeline. Accessed 20 Jan. 2018.

This is a secondary source, as it shows a basic summary of leading up to and what happened during the Vietnam War. The source was very helpful to us because it gave a

very good, clear description of what happened in the war with exact dates. We used it as a guideline.

History Learning Site. www.historylearningsite.co.uk/vietnam-war/my-lai-massacre/. Accessed 1 Mar. 2018

This article is a secondary source. It talked about the My Lai Massacre and what occurred during the event. It gave exact statistics on the My Lai Massacre too.

Linder, Douglass O. "General William R. Peers." *Famous Trials*, www.famous-trials.com/mylaicourts/1618-myl-bpeers. Accessed 5 Mar. 2018.

This article was a secondary source and was about who General William R. Peers was and what he found in the investigation on the My Lai Massacre. The article focused more on what Peers found in the investigation.

Map of Vietnam. *If Only I Had a Time Machine*, mholloway63.wordpress.com/2014/03/16/what-happened-on-march-16th-my-lai-massacre/. Accessed 1 Mar. 2018.

This secondary source is a map of the country of Vietnam. This provided us with an idea of where My Lai was located within Vietnam.

Marshall, Burke, et al. *The My Lai Massacre and Its Cover-Up: Beyond the Reach of Law?*

This book was a secondary source and used as an image on our project. This book was a representation of the media coverage and the investigation that went into the My Lai Massacre.

My Lai. Safari Montage.

This is a secondary source because the author was not present during the time of the event. This source gave another great overview of the massacre and the source gave us a

visual of the event with pictures. It gave us a greater understanding of the event and we were able to use the new information in our exhibit.

"My Lai Massacre." *Digital History*,

www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/active_learning/explorations/vietnam/vietnam_mylai.cfm.

Accessed 27 Sept. 2017.

This secondary source was important to our project because it gave us exact details on what crimes had been committed during the massacre. We decided to include the information we got from this source, even though we did not need or use an exact quote from it. This is a secondary source because it was made by an author who did not experience the event.

My Lai Massacre. History.com, A+E Networks, www.history.com/topics/vietnam-war/my-lai-massacre/videos/my-lai-massacre. Accessed 1 Mar. 2018.

This source is a secondary source because the makers of the video were not present when the event occurred. This video gave us information on who Ron Ridenhour was and how he handled the knowledge of the My Lai Massacre.

"My Lai Trial Begins." *History.com*, www.history.com/this-day-in-history/my-lai-trial-begins.

Accessed 3 Mar. 2018.

This secondary source provided us with an opportunity to see the whole story of the trials for My Lai. We also were able to gain an introduction to how the trials worked and how they concluded.

Ray, Michael. "My Lai Massacre." *Britannica*, 9 Mar. 2018, www.britannica.com/event/My-Lai-Massacre. Accessed 9 Mar. 2018.

This secondary source talked about the events of the My Lai Massacre. It gave an exact location of My Lai which is included on our board.

Rothman, Lily. "The My Lai Verdict at 45: How the Trial Split the Nation." *Time Magazine*, 29 Mar. 2016, time.com/4268062/my-lai-verdict-1971/. Accessed 1 Mar. 2018.

This source included an image of the April 12, 1971 cover of Time in the article, which we used on our board. This is a secondary source because the person that wrote it was not present during the time of the event.

Schroth, Raymond A. "William Calley Lives." *America Magazine*, 12 Apr. 2012, www.americamagazine.org/faith/2012/04/10/william-calley-lives. Accessed 1 Mar. 2018.

This secondary source describes William Calley and what his role was in the My Lai Massacre. It also talks about Calley's life after the massacre.

"Vietnam Profile - Timeline." *BBC News*, 30 Oct. 2017, www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-pacific-16568035. Accessed 20 Jan. 2018.

This was another timeline that we used to get a better understanding of what happened before the My Lai Massacre. The timeline would be a secondary source because it was written with straight facts by someone who was not present in the area at the time.