**Process Paper**

Milo Sandfort

## **Maximilen de Robespierre: Terror in Pursuit of Power and Virtue**

I chose my topic of Robespierre because I became very interested in the French Revolution because I played a videogame that was set during the Revolution. Playing the game made me interested because I did not know much information about the French Revolution and I wanted to learn more about how it happened and who made it happen. This led me to decide that I wanted to do my National History Day project on a topic related to the French Revolution. I thought doing my project on a very prominent figure in the revolution would interest me. This brought me to choose Robespierre, one of the biggest figures in the revolution.

I conducted my research by first doing my notecards completely at school, when I had access to all of the websites for research. I read articles online and found out information about Robespierre’s life and his role in the revolution. I also got some books from the public library, which helped me find quotes and first-hand perspectives about the events during the revolution. I combined these facts with the information I got from the online articles.

As I proceeded with starting the website, I found that I needed some quotes from Robespierre and other people who lived through the French Revolution. I thought this information would allow me to get more insight into what Robespierre thought and what other people experienced at the time of the revolution. I used one of my library books to find quotes to add to my site. For the pictures I used Google searches to find photos that would fit with the different sections and pages on the website.

I chose to do a website because it was something new that I hadn’t tried before, and it seemed like the best way to convey my project. When I started to actually complete the website, I found Weebly (my website creator) to be very simple and fun to use. I found myself actually enjoying to make the website whilst doing it.

The topic of Robespierre relates to the theme of taking a stand in history because he had strong beliefs about standing up for liberty and equality for the French people. This led him to use violent means to pursue his beliefs and ideals, causing the reign of terror. Although he started out by taking a stand for the right reasons, in the end he ended up taking a stand using the wrong, violent means.