

Process Paper

We chose our topic, J.P. Morgan and the Federal Reserve because we were intrigued by economy in history. As individuals who have been fascinated by economic history, J.P. Morgan was an appealing figure to research. While browsing on the NHD 100 leaders in history, we figured that a person who had impact on American business and banking would be most valuable. We had also heard of J.P. Morgan Co., so we were curious to learn more about his significance. Having some recognition of this person, we wanted to learn more about his impact on history.

We conducted our research in various manners. The Internet helped us a lot, as the Library of Congress and National Archives allowed us to access materials on the other side of the continent. Various digital New York Times publications (primary) and many secondary sources helped us learn about the Great Panic, giving context to Morgan's work. We used various online biographies about J.P. Morgan and his personal success, and how that translated into his legacy. We also went to the Allen and Suzallo libraries at University of Washington (November 17). We checked out books on Morgan's accomplishments and Federal Reserve policy, as well as scanning notable pages from books and primary resources. Our trip to the university was certainly rewarding, because they have a wider range of primary sources, compared to county libraries we visited.

We also conducted interviews at UW on January 13. We scheduled meetings with two professors at the Department of Economics; they gave us with a big picture understanding of Federal Reserve policy, and where Morgan stands between all of this. Then later we interviewed two authors of an amazing book they had written. This information gave us expert opinions on different sides of the issue.

As individuals who are not very artistic, we could not do a performance or exhibit. Also, since our timeframe was 1906-1913, there would not be enough relevant pictures for a ten-minute documentary. That leaves a website, where the opportunity to put documents, interview clips, media, and plenty of paragraphs seems suitable, given our research constraints. We created our project using the Weebly website creation platform, where an intuitive click and drag interface allowed for easy organization of block quotes, text, images, slideshows, and media. We first looked at the works of previous year websites to understand what was considered a good or excellent website. We worked together to type and revise text, first starting with an essay to drill down on our main argument. Then, we each found notable quotes, audio, and video clips to validate our thesis.

Our project relates to the NHD theme because J.P. Morgan led America out of various financial crises—the most notable one being the Panic of 1907. By taking a leadership role on Wall Street and providing his expert guidance to Congress, J.P. Morgan left the Federal Reserve; an entity that *still* serves and protects us today.