This year’s History Fair theme provided me the chance to study the person I have read about most in my love for the history of World War II. Dwight D. Eisenhower was a perfect individual to study and learn about his impact on the world. I chose to study and present the life and times of Eisenhower because I was already familiar about his role in WWII but wanted to know more about his impact as president and how his earlier life experiences affected his future decisions.

In my research of the life and actions of Dwight D. Eisenhower I utilized many biographies written about him, including the bibliography written by renowned historian and author Stephen Ambrose. Most of the books used were from the public library where I found many historical depictions of events in World War II that displayed Eisenhower’s leadership abilities. I also used several books consisting of history about each individual president as well. A lot of research was conducted using the internet in which I found many documents and essays pertaining to Eisenhower’s life. I found maps, pictures and essays about Eisenhower on the Internet as well. One valuable site was the Time Magazine website where full versions of past issues are available. Time Magazine published nine issues that featured Eisenhower on the cover page. Articles including his victory over Hitler, interactions with Russia, and the events surrounding his death were insightful.

I chose to construct an exhibit because it was a way in which I could present not just words but use objects and interactive materials in order to explain the importance of Eisenhower as a world leader. My exhibit is constructed of mostly wood and consists of a desk-like table that functions as a display of what Eisenhower’s personal office desk may
have looked. My exhibit consists of three main panels where I outline the major events of
the three time periods of Eisenhower’s life. The first panel shows events of his early life
and WWI, the second panel is devoted to his participation in WWII, and the third details
his Presidency.

The life and actions of Dwight D. Eisenhower are relative to the NHD theme
because he is an individual in history whose leadership and strong will brought together
many world powers and an end to the terrors of Nazism. As President, he settled many
threats posed by the Cold War, made peace with numerous world powers, and made
significant improvements to the American interior. Eisenhower’s accomplishments are
deserving of recognition equivalent to the great American leaders who are immortalized
in stone in the Black Hills of North Dakota. His diplomatic abilities played a significant
role in saving the world from what might have been a disastrous outcome in the Cold
War. Eisenhower’s policies and actions made a significant, positive, lasting impact on
America and the world.

(477 words)