

The Triumph and Tragedy of the Space Race

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The Space Race has taught me the fact that if any group of people have enough dedication and willpower to accomplish one goal, then anything certainly becomes possible. I found it quite fascinating to find an event in history that has been driven by both politics and scientific achievements, which has certainly never happened on such a magnitude of that of the Space Race. I had chosen the Space Race for my NHD project simply because the Space Race was an event in history that has led to one of Humanity's greatest technological triumphs and tragedies.

I had found most of my research with the help of Mrs Henderson, who is the librarian at my school. She had given me and other students information on how to gather sources from the EBSCO Research Database. Using the EBSCO Research Database, I had managed to find ten sources to include into my project. I had sorted the sources I had found using a tool called NoodleTools. Most of the sources I had used in my project are magazines and articles.

I had gathered several sources that were very helpful for me to develop my project. One of the most helpful sources that I had gathered was *Wernher von Braun's Ultimate Weapon* by Michael Neufeld and *The Scientist Who Survived the Gulag to Launch Sputnik* by Stephen Budiansky. These sources helped me to create a background to introduce the audience to my project's topic.

With the gathering of several sources, I had undoubtedly encountered some difficulty while searching for other sources. For example, I had tried to find an article to cite the Luna missions which were launched by the Soviet Union in the early 1960s. The EBSCO Research Database had not given me any useful relevant results. The Luna missions were important to include into my project because it would help give a reason on what seriously motivated the United States to compete, and would reduce confusion on the process of introducing the United States as a competitor within the Space Race in my project.

The Space Race fits in NHD's current theme of Triumph and Tragedy because the Space Race had stood out as one of humanity's greatest triumphs due to rapid technological advancement and also stands out as one of humanity's greatest tragedies due to the stagnance in technological innovation. One example of the technological advancements that are still present in the 21st century is the Integrated Circuit, which has shrunk computers from being the size of rooms to the size of

a wallet. However, there has been little technological innovation since the end of the Space Race. My project's topic of the Space Race holds tremendous value in history as the Space Race was a result of the full dedication of thousands of very hardworking people to accomplish a goal that was literally out of this world and had lead to one giant leap for mankind.