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Process Paper

Because of our interest in the 20th century, a period of change and great international conflict, we chose to research the Nuremberg Trials because they offered a situation of rapid change in international relations with a fascinating landscape for investigating the theme of Rights and Responsibilities.

Our research into international law structure began with a look into the functions and factions of the United Nations--leading us to aim to research organizations like the International Criminal Court and the history of international law itself. Sources that have offered invaluable information regarding the Trials include multiple writings from Telford Taylor, a prosecutor at Nuremberg, *The Nuremberg Interviews*, a collection of primary interviews with the Nazis on trial by Leon Goldensohn, and primary court documents on the procedure and enactment of the Trials. Through our research, we came up with a couple of prompts to focus on, such as the state of international law prior to the trials, the legacy that Nuremberg left, and the legal validity of the trials themselves. These questions presented us with the challenge of determining the exact direction of our argument in evaluating the legal circumstances of international law at the time and how this was reflected in the Trials. Our multitude of interviews, including one with Clancy Sigal, an American GI who attended the Nuremberg Trials, allowed us a unique opportunity to ask in-depth questions, and produced insightful ideas that helped to shape the direction of our research and overall argument.

We decided to pick a website as our presentation category because of our previous experience with websites and the functionality, interactivity, and appearance that a website offered.

The Nuremberg Trials were the basis of modern international law. From the disjointed and ambiguous state of foreign relations based off the tradition of rule of force, the Nuremberg Trials arose to fundamentally establish a method of post-war justice and instill a rule of law system. The Allies decided to bring impartial justice because they felt it was their responsibility to institute fair and liberal proceedings and define human rights. Though the proceedings infringed on some liberal principles, these violations were necessary in order to ensure the protection of human rights and establish a responsibility for the international community to preserve these rights in the future. The Nuremberg Trials were vital to the development of the civil order and justice of today, without which modern law would crumble to its original disordered state.