Cuban Missile Crisis Project

The “Cuban Missile Crisis” of October 1962 is an event of which most people have heard. While it may not be the flashiest of events in the 1960’s, this crisis may very well be the most important event in human history. It does not have the mystery of the Kennedy assassination, or the deeply divisive visions of Vietnam, but The Cuban Missile Crisis is the closest the world has ever come to a general nuclear war. Your goal during this project will be to gain an in-depth understanding of the people, ideas, and actions related to this watershed moment in history.

**DAY 1**: **RESEARCH IN COMPUTER LAB ROOM 251!!! (Social Studies Lab)**

1. Explore the website <http://www.cubanmissilecrisis.org/> for about 24 minutes, paying particular attention to the “About the Crisis” dropdown menu at the top.
2. Read the **Background handout**
3. Sign up for a **“Persona”** (you will become a historical figure for our simulation)
   1. Skim the **timeline** of Cold War Events paying particular attention to the late 50’s and early 60’s leading up to October 1962.
   2. Explore the **Original Historic Sources**

**DAY 2**: **Using the Hubs or Devices in the classroom:**

1. Research in your historical figure. (Start on this website, but also branch out to others)
2. Read ANY and ALL documents you find that he wrote.
3. Take notes on his opinions, actions, and general history
4. Find what OTHERS who knew him have said about him
5. Be Prepared to BECOME HIM.
6. Pay particular attention to “your” thoughts, feelings, motivations, concerns, and personal agendas.
7. FIND AT LEAST ONE DOCUMENT THAT “YOU” WROTE THAT YOU CAN REFER BACK TO DURING THE SIMULATION.

Example:

President Kennedy:: “Secretary Khrushchev, what did you think you would gain by sending missiles to Cuba?”

Secretary Khrushchev:: “As I stated in my letter to Fidel Castro from October 28th 1962: ‘On our part, we will do everything possible to stabilize the situation in Cuba defend Cuba against invasion and assure you the possibilities for peacefully building a socialist society.’

1. If time permits familiarize yourself with the history of your persona after the Cuban Crisis.
2. Finally, you should complete a **HISTORICAL FIGURE BIOGRAPHY SHEET.**

**DAY 3**: **Simulation 1: To Place…or not to place? That is the question.**

1. Follow the directions on the Simulation sheet.

**Day 4: Simulation 2 End Game**

* **Follow instructions on the sheet**

**Day 5**: 13 Days

* Watch and take notes

**Day 6**: 13 Days

* Watch and take notes

**Day 7**: Finish 13 Days and Complete **History vs. Hollywood**

A P2V Neptune U.S. Navy patrol plane flies over a Soviet freighter