

13 Days in October – “Going to the Brink of Nuclear War” – The Cuban Missile Crisis.

Students in groups of four or five, will prepare a news program that outlines and reports the events of the Cuban Missile Crisis. They will cover the events from October 15, 1962 – October 29, 1962. The news program for each group will be recorded with a video recorder, or digital camcorder, and edited using video capture software, then played for the class. All participants must be involved each day, and do their share of the work to get the points and test signed off. The group will grade each others participation which will determine whether credit is given.

The news program will include the following elements:

1. Name your television broadcast, (example; Election 2000, Iraqi Freedom, America Mourns, etc.)
2. Two news anchors, at a desk, reporting the events of each day, (13 days) and introducing special reports etc. Create your anchor names.
 - The summary of each day should include an explanation of what happened, and the key people involved, and a summary of why it was important.
3. Two field reporters, covering special reports and interviews. Create your field reporter names.
4. A special report from the white house, interviewing a key member of the Kennedy administration or staff.
5. A special report covering an interview with a key Soviet Official.
6. A special report covering the causes of the Cuban Missile Crisis.
7. A “Breaking News” story.
8. Get reaction from the public (someone outside of class) “Jay Walking”
9. 2 commercials that would market appropriate products from the time period, or something specifically linked to the situation with the Cuban Missile Crisis.
10. Use props and/or costumes where applicable
11. Create “pop up” graphics for your television screen – “green board” graphics.
12. Create a special report that is an overall summary of the events and give “The final word” or opinion of the Cuban Missile Crisis.
 - Before filming takes place, each group must create a story-board that includes the information that will be presented in the news broadcast.
 - Before filming takes place, each group must create the notes that will be used during the news broadcast.

In the immortal words of Walter Cronkite, “That’s how it is on this day October ? , 1962”