**Involuntary Servitude:**

**The American Man's Reaction to the Military Draft and the Turning Point Result**

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**Individual Website**

**Senior Division**

**Process Paper**

I came across my topic over the summer when I was watching the movie, *Stop-Loss*, with my dad. The movie was really inspiring and made me want to learn more about the stop-loss policy but the policy was too recent for a project so I decided to incorporate it into a project about the military draft because the stop-loss policy was said to be the “back-door draft.” In the past, I have done projects ranging from women’s history to music history so I felt like I needed to try something different which is why I decided to make a project revolving around military history.

My research this year has been the most rewarding because of the interviews I was able to conduct. Speaking with veterans from World War II, the Vietnam War, as well as today’s military men has helped me understand more about the military and form a greater respect and appreciation for the men and women in the military. I also was able to email Michael Ferber, who sent his sermon as well as gave me some leads. After researching in my local library, I went to the Iowa Lakes Community College and found Confronting the War Machine: Draft Resistance During the Vietnam War by Michael S. Foley which was the most helpful book I found and lead me to Michael Ferber. Research online and in online archives was also beneficial.

For the past two years I have been creating websites but I have also created exhibits. Making websites was more enjoyable for me so I decided to go in that direction again. For my website, I tried to keep the pages in chronological order as well as having drop down boxes for the appropriate pages. Each page has a quote at the top in white that pertains to the page with the passages that I have written in light grey and additional quotes in yellow. I felt like the “War Stories” page was a page that needed to be included to show the hardships and opinions of the soldiers that have served in the military. I believe that the military in itself has been a turning point within their individual lives and was an important part of my project. My biggest struggles when creating my website have been the word limit and learning how to edit my video to the appropriate time.

The military draft is a turning point in American history because of the resistance movement and the eventual elimination of the draft itself. In wars prior to the Vietnam War, there was opposition to the draft but resistance escalated when young men viewed the draft process as unfair because of the ease that wealthy citizens had at receiving deferments. This was an especially rebellious time in history which influenced the draft resistance movement. It was believed that it violated the individual freedoms of the soldiers. By resisting and burning the draft cards, young men helped push the military into a volunteer only organization.