**Process Paper**

When the NHD was first assigned, both of us gravitated towards the topic of women's rights. We also thought that the time period of World War II was particularly interesting, for it marked the decline and rise of new world powers. So we discussed options with our teacher and she recommended looking into the involvement of Soviet women in aviation. From there we researched organizations and women who had a lasting impact on the army’s of the Soviet Union and other countries. Although the names of many influential Soviet women pilots came up (such as Nahezda Popova), Marina Raskova's name appeared consistently as someone who had pioneered Soviet women's entrance into combat. Her fame at the time within Soviet Russia seemed to indicate that she was an especially influential person, as well as her initiative in forming the first women's regiment. We first tried secondary sources, such as websites, to gather background information on the leadership and legacy of Marina Raskova. However, it was difficult to find primary sources online. So as the research process went on we turned to more books as sources. For example, in a book called *A Dance with Death*, we found interviews with Soviet women pilots which enriched our research in the form of primary sources. As we found more and more sources, we added them to a bibliography, using software called NoodleTools. We also used this site to help us organize our research into note cards; although we used a Google Doc to collect our information as well.

As for our presentation category, we were required to do a website. We first created an outline of our argument, and then using this outline we created different tabs on our website. The next step was adding our evidence to these pages, whether they were pictures, quotes, or explanations. Then we added our analysis, in the form of text--often captions in the case of the pictures. After this was done, we began to find video and audio clips that we thought would supplement our argument and provide an alternative to reading information.

Marina Raskova’s accomplishments relate to the NHD theme because of the way she demonstrated leadership in convincing Joseph Stalin to allow women into the Red Army and in her organization and formation all-women air regiments. These were pioneering actions since women had not been allowed to fly in combat within the Soviet Union before this and previous attempts to set this in motion had failed. Raskova left a legacy through the images of the strong Soviet woman fighting for the homeland that appeared during and after the war, after her death. In addition, the numbers of Soviet women in the military today are a testament to the long-lasting impact that Raskova had by pushing for women to be allowed in combat.

**Word Count: 468**