My topic is The Lewis and Clark Expedition. I decided to do the Lewis and Clark Expedition because it seemed interesting and I wanted to learn more about how it affected America.

My research question is: to what extent was the Lewis and Clark Expedition a success? I found a website that had an article by James P. Ronda that gave more background information about the Lewis and Clark Expedition. I found a book that was not authoritative because it had no author. I found a book called *Finding the West* by James P. Ronda who is a college professor. I also found a book called *The Saga of Lewis and Clark* by Thomas Schmidt and Jeremy Schmidt who are historians. This book had a lot of information of what happened during the expedition and it had some of the journal entries by Lewis and Clark. Another book I found was *The Lewis and Clark Journals* edited by Gary E. Moulton. This book contains the journals of Lewis and Clark. I found the books called *Westward Expansion* and *Lewis and Clark: The Journals of The Corps of Discovery*. I also found a letter from Thomas Jefferson to Meriwether Lewis on a website by Catherine Lavender. I found the books called *Undaunted Courage* by Stephen E. Ambrose and *The Men of the Lewis and Clark Expedition* by Charles G. Clarke. I found a video called *Lewis and Clark: The Journey of the Corps of Discovery* by Ken Burns which I took notes on. I learned about what happened during the expedition, who went on the expedition, and what happened before and after the expedition. *Undaunted Courage, Lewis and Clark: The Journey of the Corps of Discovery,* and the letter from Thomas Jefferson were the most important sources to me because I got the most information from them. When I wrote my process paper, I tried to include as much evidence as I could. I realized that I did not put in enough commentary, so I added more in my final draft.

In 1804, Thomas Jefferson sent Meriwether Lewis and William Clark on an expedition to see if there was an all water route to the Pacific Ocean. The expedition failed at their main goal which was to find an all water route to the Pacific. They did however succeed in finding new information about the plants, animals, and Native Americans that were in the region so that American knowledge and culture could become greater. Lewis and Clark did find the Pacific Ocean but they did not stay on rivers the whole time. When they returned home, they felt as though they had failed and let down Thomas Jefferson. Even though they failed at their main goal, they did not fail at finding information about the west. They recorded the geography, climate, plants, animals, and Native Americans they encountered on their expedition in their journals. The information that they recorded and brought back to America helped America learn what was in the west so when the US expanded, they would know what to expect. By having the expedition, walking on the land, and seeing what was there, Lewis and Clark made the west “theirs”.