

### **Process paper:**

When given the prompt of "turning points of history," we had multiple topics that came to our minds. Initially, we had multiple debates within our group, but eventually, a member of our group, ardent about the Partition of the Indian subcontinent, convinced the group by showcasing his family's primary sources of the event. After doing some on-surface research our group was deeply intrigued by the topic. The annual theme, "Turning Points of History," aligns perfectly with the Partition, as it fundamentally altered the course of the Indian subcontinent. The Partition not only led to the creation of two independent nations but also had impactful consequences on the socio-political and cultural aspects of the region.

Firstly, one group member's grandmother possessed several primary source documents concerning the Partitioning of the Indian subcontinent. We built upon this by using several relevant databases from our high school to source secondary and primary sources. This included government records, documents, newspapers, books, interviews, and articles. Lastly, we created our website through the NHDWebCentral website builder, given by National History Day.

We felt that the best way to convey our thoughts and research was through a website that is visually appealing and rich in content. As a group, we openly communicated about what photos, quotes, and content to include on our website. We were physically and socially connected for multiple days to communicate to maximize our efficiency and thought process of the project.

The historical argument revolves around the idea that the Partition was a consequence of deep-rooted religious and political tensions between Hindus and Muslims in British India. The demand for a separate Muslim state, led by Muhammad Ali Jinnah and the All-India Muslim League, gained fame. The inability to find a power-sharing arrangement, coupled with the urgency of the British to leave India led to widespread violence and mass migrations. The

argument underscores the complexity of the factors involved in the Partition, emphasizing religious identity, political aspirations, and the impact on the subcontinent.

The Partition of India and Pakistan holds immense significance in history due to its far-reaching consequences. It resulted in the largest mass migration in human history, with millions of people displaced without homes in unfamiliar places. The resulting violence that accompanied the Partition left an unforgettable mark on the memory of all the people in the subcontinent. The event also shaped the development of India and Pakistan, influencing their political, social, and cultural landscapes. Additionally, the Partition created enduring geopolitical tensions between the two nations, leading to future conflicts and wars. The lessons learned from this historical event highlight the importance of addressing religious and cultural diversity, making it a crucial turning point in the history of the Indian subcontinent.