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Process Paper

Duel and Duality: New York, New Journalism

The first major concept of my school's eleventh grade curriculum this year related to immigration in the 1800s. Our summer reading assignment was to read Avi's *The City of Orphans* and correspondingly conduct a research project on a related topic. In *The City of Orphans*, the main character, Maks, was an immigrant and newsie for the infamous *New York World*. Although the story primarily discusses Maks and his family's immigrant life, themes of the *World* permeate the book. Accordingly, I researched Joseph Pulitzer's *New York World* and how he precipitated a new era of journalism that consequently transformed a country whose immigration population had become characteristic of itself. I was immediately fascinated with the topic, and excited about the possibilities of how this topic could relate to the theme. Additionally, I thought it would be best to research something that does not obviously relate to the theme, and would prove as a challenge while researching.

My preliminary research began when I was searching for sources on Joseph Pulitzer for my summer assignment; my first exposure to this topic was reading *The City of Orphans* and how the subtle hints of how influential *The World* was during the time period in which the main character lived in New York. I ventured further into the *World* of Pulitzer, immigrant life, and sensationalism. Eventually, I decided to expand my research to William Randolph Hearst and *The Journal* as well, and to focus on their exchanges as competitors in their circulation war. I purchased as many books as I could on my topic, and scanned several archives online of historical societies from Missouri and New York. I also looked into newspaper archives of *The*

World and *The Journal* to attain a first-hand experience of the papers. I scoured photo sources of the Library of Congress, and delved into both Hearst and Pulitzer's personal paper collections.

Since a presentation category should always reflect the topic well, I chose a website to complement my topic of Hearst and Pulitzer's explorational exchanges during the 1890s. Since my topic is about new journalism, I wanted to capture the essence of a newspaper in my design. I chose a mustard-yellow color scheme in order to represent the idea of "yellow journalism" and bold headlines to mimic the designs of the two respective newspapers.

My topic relates to this year's theme of "Exploration, Encounter, and Exchange" on a shrouded, but deeply thorough level. Through various exchanges from their intense rivalry, Joseph Pulitzer and William Randolph Hearst explored new techniques of the press, consequently laying the foundation for modern journalism. Among these investigations, Pulitzer and Hearst's respective papers—*The World* and *The Journal*—experienced a collision with realms outside of the usual authority of journalism. This ultimately led to a promotion of a greater exchange of ideas, concepts, and values among Americans of contrasting economic classes and diverse cultures.

Word Count: 492