**The Telephone: Elisha Gray**

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**Junior Division/Website**

**Word Count: 473**

I chose my topic by looking at the list that was provided for the History Fair.) I didn’t really have any interest in doing a social issue or more of a pop culture issue, I was more inclined to focus on science. There was a limited amount of science topics to choose from, so I didn’t have a wide variety of topics to look at. One of them was “Elisha Gray” and I had never heard of Elisha Gray until then so I decided to research him. I looked him up and his significance (And this is why I chose him) Elisha Gray was an inventor who engaged in a legal battle over the rights of the telephone. I didn’t know who he was. And me not knowing who he is is part of the reason why I chose him.

I started by looking up the basics. I began my search by looking at the details of his background, and found out where he went to school, who he married, tidbits and events that occurred later in his life. Then I decided to go deeper, to really look at the crux. I decided to start from the very beginning (what sparked the entire legal battle) and see what the results were afterward. I also decided to look at what the inventors did after the legal battle and if they moved on to create any more devices or obtain any more patents.

I wasn’t too keen on doing a board, so I decided to create a website instead. I have never made a website before, (let alone make one for a school project) so I decided that this was a good opportunity to learn something new. I created my website on Weebly, and used one of the templates the website provided.

My historical argument is that Elisha Gray relates to the topic of communication because in all of the times I learned about the invention of the telephone, (which wasn’t many, I’ll admit) I had never heard the name Elisha Gray uttered, which is partly why I was so interested in the topic, for I didn’t recognize the name. My argument is that it wasn’t rightfully communicated that Alexander Graham Bell wasn’t the only person that had anything to do with the invention of the telephone. It wasn’t rightfully communicated that Elisha Gray played a role in the story, albeit a smaller one. I’m arguing that we have told this story so many times that it is a watered down version of what it actually is.

My topic is significant in history because it goes to show that there is always more than one side to a story. There is always going to be another person, another party, another group, that is responsible for the way an event played out the way it did.

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