**Source Information:** List the basic citation information. Include: author’s name, title of the article, title of the Journal, title of the website or database, date of the article and page numbers.


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**What is the main idea of your article? What is the argument your source is making:**

The author believes that presidents use foreign policy as a way to manipulate voters in a political election year. He says JFK used the Cuban Missile Crisis as a means to ensure that democrats were well thought of during a midterm elections when many democratic seats up for reelection.

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**What is the evidence you found in the article to support this argument?** *(Ex: quotes, text references…)*

James A. Nathan, suggested that Kennedy boldly confronted the Soviets and initially avoided quiet diplomacy to resolve the conflict because a forthright, public display of toughness would disarm Republicans who had been lambasting the administration over Cuba and would improve Democratic chances in the congressional elections. Page 88

The political climate appeared favorable to the Republicans in 1962. Only once in the twentieth century, in 1934, had the party of an incumbent president improved at midterm its position in the House of Representatives; and not since that year had the party in power in the White House enhanced its strength in the Senate. Page 90

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**What is your interpretation?** Write a paragraph that explains the author’s argument. Be sure to include a quote or a paraphrase from your source.

President Kennedy could have quietly tried to settle the Cuban Missile Crisis with the Soviets but he was concerned about upcoming midterm elections. He wanted to show himself as strong leaders able to take a hard stand. Historical statistics showed that rarely did an incumbent president’s party’s strength improve at midterm elections and “the political climate appeared favorable to the Republicans in 1962” (Patterson 88). Historian James A. Nathan stated that Kennedy deliberately addressed the Soviet Union with a “public display of toughness” to improve the Democratic chances during midterm elections (Patterson 90).