Basic Outline of Essay:

Introduction of Topic – Political Leaders and Decision-Making

Poliheuristic Theory

Development of Poliheuristic Theory

Relate to cognitive science through general decision making

Taking into account one’s own reasoning

Development of How Leaders Make Decisions

Taking into account the reasoning of public opinion

Application to Specific Leaders and Times in History

Dropping the Atomic Bomb

George W. Bush/Bush Administration

Conclusion with Connection to Cognitive Science

Economic standpoint – opportunity costs, Game Theory

During the Cold War, U.S. always wanted to one-up USSR

Political leaders must also follow the bureaucracy…

When President Truman made an executive order to drop the atom bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945 he had been rapid decision-making during the time of a crisis. The war was never-ending. The Japanese kamikazes would fight to the death and there was a stalemate that continued to take the lives of many American soldiers, so Truman rationally chose to do what he believed was best for his nation and his people. The decisions George W. Bush made can be analyzed using the Poliheuristic Theory. The Bush Administration under George Bush did not make decisions in a crisis and did not have to act as rashly as they did.

Three Articles:

Citation 1: “Traditional Decision Analysis and the Poliheuristic Theory of Foreign Policy Decision Making”

Citation 2: “Bureaucrats versus the Ballot Box in Foreign Policy Decision Making: An Experimental Analysis of the Bureaucratic Politics Model and the Poliheuristic Theory”

Citation 3: “How Do Leaders Make Decisions?: A Poliheuristic Perspective”