

KEDC Congressional Academy

Jessamine County

West Jessamine High School located in Nicholasville, Kentucky is a participant in KEDC Congressional Academy through project HEART (History Education through Advanced Research Technology). West Jessamine High School has 40 student participants ranging from 9-11th grade. Students at West Jessamine learned about the Cold War through research projects.

The Cold War was a proxy war, with no direct combat. The Cold War lasted from 1947-1991 with high tensions of a nuclear war and spread of communism between the United States and the Soviet Union. Though the Cold War never had any direct combat, there are events that are linked to the war. Such events include, Fall Out Shelters, McCarthyism and the fall of the Berlin Wall (1989).

One of the research projects that West Jessamine High School used was a mock Fall Out Shelter. This was made to look like a real Fall Out Shelter where students could see what people really did in preparation for nuclear warfare. Devin, a student at West Jessamine, said "To see the shelter, it really puts you in the mindset of people living during that era. I've seen videos of fallout shelters being made, but to be in one and see it gives you a different perspective and better understanding".

Another research project students at West Jessamine High School created was a modern Berlin Wall. The students learned that the Berlin Wall was a direct division of capitalist and communist Germany. They learned that the graffiti on the wall was the Germans way to express their opinions of the time. Using posters, students got to remake their own Berlin Wall Graffiti with a perspective of issues in America today. This allowed the students to learn about the wall, while being creative and having the opportunity to express themselves.



Pictured above is a Fall Out Shelter made by teachers from West Jessamine High School.



Pictured above are Devin (Middle) and his peers excited after seeing the Fallout Shelter.



To the left are students Echo and Kinsey working on their Berlin Wall Graffiti.