***Movie Analysis: 13 Days***

1. Opening issue. Read the following quotation and discuss what you think it means.

*“Nuclear powers must avert [avoid] those confrontations which bring an adversary[enemy] to a choice of either a humiliating [embarrassing] retreat [back off] or a nuclear war. To adopt [take] that kind of course in the nuclear age would be evidence only of the bankruptcy [shortcoming; failure] of our policy—or of a collective [everyone overall] death wish for the world.”* –John F. Kennedy, Speech at American University, 1963

Is the quotation still valid today? EXPLAIN WHY:

2. How was the President informed of the possibility of missiles in Cuba?

3. What are the estimates of the capabilities of the missiles?

What is the tone of the cabinet discussion about what action to take?

What options are presented?

What is Kennedy’s position on the matter?

4. What is the connection between Cuba and Berlin?

5. What are the three options presented at the EXCOMM meeting?

6. What is the position of General LeMay and the military?

7. What course of action does the cabinet choose?

8. What does the President say in his television address?

9.How does it reflect a policy position? How might saying this create international tension?

10. The National Security Archive Web site contains the following statement: “If the Cuban Missile Crisis was the most dangerous passage of the Cold War, the most dangerous moment of the Cuban Missile Crisis was the evening of Saturday, 27 October 1962, when the resolution of the crisis— war or peace—appeared to hang in the balance.” How effectively is this portrayed in the movie?

11. Write a paragraph in to complete the following statement:

“The most significant result of the Cuban Missile crisis was…”

12. Research the event at the official National Security Archive: http://www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/nsa/cuba\_mis\_cri/

Compare the movie version with the analysis by Philip Brenner, “Turning History on its Head”: http://www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/nsa/cuba\_mis\_cri/brenner.htm .

\*links are on [www.ennishistory.com](http://www.ennishistory.com)

How does the movie compare to Brenner’s analysis? CITE EXAMPLES AND EXPLAIN YOUR ANSWER (use a separate piece of paper and staple to this sheet)