Part One: Introduction to the Topic

The Cuban missile crisis was a 13-day conflict between the United States of America, Cuba, and the USSR. During the conflict the United States discovered that Cuba had begun building missile bases on the island of Cuba, just to the south of the United States. These would house nuclear missiles transferred to the island from the Soviet Union. This crisis will involve of both the United States and the USSR, and an attempt to solve this conflict peacefully.

Part Two: American Perspective to the Cuban Missile Crisis

The Americans viewed the Cuban Missile Crisis as one of the most terrifying events to ever hit the United States and the closest that the world has ever gotten to engaging in nuclear war. In January of 1961, the United States government decided that they would have to overthrow the Cuban government under the reign of Fidel Castro. A few months later in April of the same year, the United States launched the Bay of Pigs invasion, which was a failed attempt to overthrow the Cuban government.

After a few of these United States sponsored failed attempts, the Russian government decided that in order to deter any more of these coups, they would place nuclear missiles in Cuba. After meeting with Fidel Castro, the Soviet
government began building short-ranged and intermediate range missiles. The United States government finally noticed the building in the middle of October, which officially started the Cuban Missile Crisis from the United States perspective.

The United States considered attacking Cuba by both air and sea, but decided on a military blockade. This military blockade was known around the world as “quarantine” for legal reasons. The US announced that it would not permit offensive weapons to be delivered to Cuba and demanded that the Soviets dismantle the missile bases already under construction. The United States also demanded that all weapons that the USSR had supplied to the Cubans be returned to the USSR. The Kennedy administration, while hoping that the USSR would listen to its demands, thought that this conflict would eventually end in military conflict.

Part Three – Strategy

For this crisis session, as members of the Kennedy administration, it will be your job to make sure that this crisis does not end up in total nuclear war. While it is of upmost importance that the nuclear missiles are removed from Cuba, nuclear war could destroy the earth, which is something that would not be looked favorably upon by the chairs.

The most important objective here is diplomacy. You may make some of the same demands as the real Kennedy administration, but you may make some changes promote accommodations in order to lessen the threat of nuclear war.
However during this diplomatic process, you must remember that it is your job to protect the citizens of the United States. The world is watching your actions here.

The United States has many options going into this crisis. The first and most important option is to settle the conflict as peacefully as possible. This would involve entering into peace talks with the Soviet Union and trying to peacefully end the missile program that is being developed in Cuba. That would be the peaceful option in this situation. However, one solution would be to place your own nuclear missiles close to the Soviet Union, in order to force the U.S.S.R to remove their missiles. Strategy is the most important option here, and it is of the utmost importance that the missiles are removed from Cuba without Americans being harmed in the process.

Part Four- Links for more research

http://www.cubanmissilecrisis.org/

This website, set up by Harvard and with helps from the Belfer Center for science and international affairs is a good site to help understand the reasoning behind the Cuban Missile Crisis as well as a good site to help understand the actions taken by the United States to avert Nuclear War.

The website above is good for helping to understand the timeline of events during the Cuban Missile crisis, and is also good at understanding actually how close to a total Nuclear war the United States and the USSR actually got.

http://www.october1962.com/

This website works well as a timeline for the Cuban Missile crisis.