**Student 1**

**Student 2**

**Student 3**

**Student 4**

**Area 51: An Uncensored History of America's Top Secret Military Base**

**1. What inspired the choice of my topic. Relevance of the topic**

What inspired your topic – a movie (book) that you watched, a situation that you witnessed; or started from the observation that AI is replacing more and more human intelligence; or that the world is turning into a spectacle, that everything matters only if it is filmed / taped; or that the world is turning into a (virtual – or not) battlefield or power strife etc

Why it is useful – to some people with certain characteristics / qualities / needs, to a community, to mankind / humanity, to the world at large; how it enriches their lives, how it helps them lead a better life, how it makes their lives easier and/or more challenging / interesting; how it warns / draws attention to some dangers etc) – 3-5 lines

You can take the ideas from the Script that follows (**your own Script** I mean, not this Area 51 example), of course. I want this in my face, on the Cover Page

(then you resume these ideas, enlarge upon them etc in the Script per se)

**2. Structure, eg**

1. The Big Brother Concept

2. Surveillance by Consent

3. Screen cultures

(the 3-point structure must appear as well on one of the first slides of your PowerPoint presentation)

**Area 51: An Uncensored History of America's Top Secret Military Base**

**Edi Capitaneanu:**

Hello everybody! My name is Capitaneanu Eduard and today, my team and I are going to talk to you about a gripping and very fascinating topic, which is Area 51. The location of Area 51 has never been secret, as it is depicted in satellite imagery presented by Google Maps or Google Earth. Instead, what is kept secret is the work inside the base. The fact that more and more American citizens were reporting the appearance of UFOs in the 1950s and 1960s had a direct link with the activity that took place in Area 51.

The existence of Area 51 has never been officially recognized by the US government, although the CIA has recently declassified several documents relating to the location of that base and to the general activities that take place there. Officially, the location is known as Nevada or the Groom Lake Test and Training Field.

The question you should be asking yourself is “What’s the US government really hiding in this mysterious place?”

What exactly goes on inside Area 51 has led to decades of wild speculation. There are, of course, the alien conspiracies that galactic visitors are tucked away somewhere inside. One of the more colorful rumors insists the infamous 1947 Roswell crash was actually a Soviet aircraft piloted by mutated midgets and the wreckage remains on the grounds of Area 51. Some even believe that the U.S. government filmed the 1969 moon landing in one of the base's hangars.

We have divided our presentation into three parts. First we will bring to your attention certain historical facts and myths surrounding the U-2 aircraft. Then we will introduce a very controversial man called Bob Lazar who claimed to have worked on reverse engineering extraterrestrial technology on a site near Area 51. And finally, . ……………………………………………………..

For all the myths and legends, what's true is that Area 51 is real and still very active. There may not be aliens or a moon landing movie set inside those fences, but something is going on and only a select few are privy to what's happening further down that closely-monitored wind-swept Nevada road. "The forbidden aspect of Area 51 is what makes people want to know what's there," says aerospace historian and author Peter Merlin who's been researching Area 51 for more than three decades.

"And there sure is still a lot going on there."

I will now let my teammate Catalin continue with some historical facts and **origins of the myths surrounding the topic of the U-2 aircraft.**

**Catalin:**

On August 1, 1955, during a high-speed-taxi test in the first U-2, Lockheed's chief test pilot, Tony LeVier, inadvertently became airborne at a remote test site in the desert of western Nevada called the Nevada Test and Training Range at Groom Lake. You may know it as Area 51.

LeVier who had conducted the first taxi-test a few days prior, accelerated the U-2 to 70 knots when he suddenly realized he was airborne, leaving him in “utter amazement.”

“I had no intentions whatsoever of flying,” recalled LeVier in transcripts quoted in “The CIA and Overhead Reconnaissance – the U-2 and OXCART Program, 1954-1974” written by CIA Historians. “I immediately started going back towards the ground, but had difficulty determining my height because the lakebed had no markings to judge distance or height. I made contact with the ground in a left bank of approximately 10 degrees.”

He was unable to land the U-2 on his first attempt, and it bounced back into the air, but he managed to successfully bring it down on a second try. Damage to the prototype U-2 was very minor. This test would later be considered the first unofficial flight of the U-2.

LeVier piloted the U-2’s first official test flight a few days later on August 4th, and the first official flight with visiting dignitaries present was on August 8th.

For security reasons, primary access to Area 51 was by aircraft. A C-124 would transport the components of a U-2, which were constructed in Burbank, California, then disassembled and transported to Watertown for reassembly and testing. A daily air shuttle also transported personnel and other cargo between Watertown and the “Skunk Works,” the Lockheed production facility in Burbank.

The U-2, however, wasn’t the only Agency aircraft transported, tested, and flown out of Area 51. The first flight test of the CIA’s A-12 OXCART took place at the Groom Lake facility on April 25, 1962; the remaining operational aircraft arrived for flight tests through mid-1964. By the fall of 1965, the eleven pilots selected to fly A-12 missions and their aircraft were ready for deployment.

CIA, Air Force, and private industry personnel from many specialties helped make the U-2 a reality and several lost their lives in the process. Four of those were pilots who had known the risks of handling an aircraft that was difficult to fly, even in the best of circumstances. Fourteen members involved in the U-2 project also lost their lives when their transport plane en route from Burbank to Watertown crashed during bad weather into Mount Charleston, a few miles outside of Las Vegas.

The sacrifice these pilots and U-2 project personnel made for their country helped the US win the Cold War. Along with thousands of Americans who worked at Area 51, their patriotism, ingenuity, and willingness to take on a project critics believed was impossible at the time – the creation of the U-2—allowed the US to penetrate the Iron Curtain and gain an unparalleled advantage over the Soviets in intelligence gathering.

Moving on to the second part of our presentation, my teammate Anda will talk about a bunch of theories brought to us by a very controversial man, Bob Lazar.

**Anda:**

Robert Scott Lazar is an American scientist who claimed to have worked on reverse engineering extraterrestrial technology at a site called S-4 near the Area 51 Groom Lake operating location. Lazar said that the UFOs use gravity wave propulsion and are powered by the (then unsynthesized) element 115. He said to have read US government briefing documents that describe alien involvement in human affairs over the past 10,000 years. Lazar's claims resulted in bringing the secret Area 51 site to the attention of the public.

Universities from which Lazar claimed to hold degrees show no record of him. He owns and runs a scientific supply company. In 1990, Lazar was convicted of a felony for installing security equipment at a brothel.

Lazar is responsible for bringing the secret test site Area 51 to the attention of the general public. In May 1989, Lazar appeared in an interview with investigative reporter George Knapp on Las Vegas TV station KLAS, under the pseudonym "Dennis" and with his face hidden, to discuss his alleged employment at "S-4", a subsidiary facility he claimed exists near United States Air Force facility Area 51. He said the facility was next to Papoose Lake, which is located south of the main Area 51 facility at Groom Lake, and included concealed aircraft hangars built into a mountainside. He said that he was involved **in the reverse engineering of one of nine flying saucers**. Lazar appeared unmasked and under his own name in a subsequent interview with Knapp in November.

Lazar claims that the propulsion of the studied vehicle was fueled by atomic element 115 (moscovium, first synthesized in 2003), and that this was used to generate gravity waves. He also claims that he was given brief documents describing the historical involvement with Earth for the past 10,000 years by extraterrestrial beings, Grey aliens, from a planet that orbited the twin binary star system Zeta Reticuli.

Lazar's story garnered media attention and controversy, and has some supporters; however, the majority of the scientific community remains skeptical. Lazar states to have worked as a scientist "in the Meson Physics facility" at the Los Alamos National Laboratory. He has stated that his academic records were erased in an effort by authorities to discredit his story.

**Voicu:**

We have now come to the last part of our talk, and I’m telling you that today, Area 51 is still very much in use. According to Google Earth, new construction and expansions are continuously happening. On most early mornings, eagle-eyed visitors can spot strange lights in the sky moving up and down. No, it's not a UFO. It's actually the semi-secret contract commuter airline using the call-sign "Janet" that transports workers from Las Vegas's McCarran Airport to the base.

As for what's happening these days in America's most secretive military base, few know for sure. Merlin has some educated guesses, including improved stealth technology, advanced weapons, electronic warfare systems and, in particular, unmanned aerial vehicles. Chris Pocock, noted U-2 historian and author of several books about the matter, told Popular Mechanics he thinks classified aircraft, more exotic forms of radio communication, directed energy weapons, and lasers are currently under development at the base.

While the lore around Area 51 may be nothing more than imaginative fiction, that won't stop people from gawking just beyond those chain link fences. "At the most basic level, anytime you have something secret or forbidden, it's human nature," says Merlin. "You want to find out what it is."

Fact or fiction, aliens are a big tourism draw. In 1996, the state of Nevada renamed Route 375 as the "Extraterrestrial Highway," and destinations such as the Alien Research Center and the Little A'Le'Inn (in the town of Rachel with a population around 54) dot the road.

To Area 51's west, there's the Alien Cathouse which is advertised as the only alien-themed brothel in the world. Geocaching also attracts visitors here since the highway is considered a "mega-trial" with over 2,000 geocaches hidden in the area.

Then there's the actual base. While getting inside is not in the cards for most, curious civilians can actually drive up to front and back gates. Locals will direct you, and the website Dreamland Resort is a great resource full of maps, driving directions, and first-hand accounts.

However, one should be careful when planning a trek to Area 51. It's the desert, after all, so bring plenty of water, snacks, and have proper weather gear—for the hot days and the cold nights. Phone service and GPS probably won't work, so have printouts and actual maps. Gas stations are few and far in between, so carry spare fuel and tires.

Also, remember the government doesn't really want you peering into Area 51. Both Merlin and Pocock confirmed that they have been closely observed or even intimidated by guards and security (including an F-16 fly-by). Do not trespass under any circumstances or arrests and heavy fines await you.