

Think & Do

Read why President
Dwight D. Eisenhower
makes the list for
#4 in the Top Ten
Greatest Presidents

In your own words,

summarize two of the
main reasons he makes
this list. Use the space
below...

4

Dwight D. Eisenhower MIDDLE CLASS

At a time of intense debate over the income gap in America, it's appropriate to salute the president who helped usher in the middle class. Dwight Eisenhower earns his slot on the *Newsweek* list for a quiet, sure-handed presidency that was entirely what the country needed following the tumult of World War II. Other than a brief, intense recession during his administration, Eisenhower's tenure was the most prosperous that most Americans living at the time could remember. He created the interstate highway system, which was intended for the evacuation of big cities in the event of a nuclear attack. Instead, it fostered the growth of the suburbs, and the expectation, then a new thing, that a home, a yard, and relative calm could be part of the American Dream. One test of presidential greatness is whether the leader is right for the time he leads. Eisenhower clearly aced that test—ending the Korean War, avoiding a confrontation with the Soviet Union, and giving American families the space they needed to simply live their lives.

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