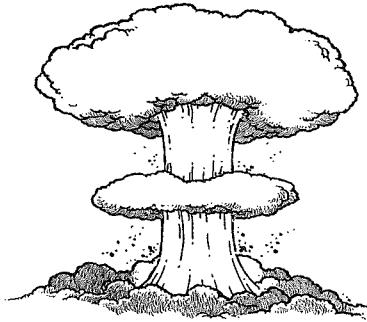


# Atomic Bomb Letter to the Editor Assignment



/15 Marks

Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Block: \_\_\_\_\_

Long before the days of Internet Blogs, webpage comments and Twitter, if a person wanted his or her opinion to be heard by a large group of people, they would write a letter to the editor of the local newspaper. Some of these letters would then be printed in the paper, as a means of communicating differing viewpoints that may be held by readers of the same newspaper. For this assignment, you will be constructing your own newspaper letter to the editor. The topic that your letter will focus on is whether or not the United States was justified in dropping atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. To complete the assignment, you will draw on information that you have learned from the readings and in-class discussions.

## Letter to the Editor Guidelines

Must be at least 300 words but no more than 500 words in length.

You must take AND defend a position on the United States use of the atomic bombs against Japan. The positions that you may choose from are:

1. *President Truman's decision to use atomic bombs against Hiroshima and Nagasaki WAS a justified action to bring the war with Japan to an end.*

OR

2. *President Truman's decision to use atomic bombs against Hiroshima and Nagasaki WAS NOT a justified action to bring the war with Japan to an end.*

Using the information that you have obtained from the readings, discussion and notes about the atomic bomb, you must explain at least THREE REASONS that help defend your argument. You should begin your letter by stating the position that you chose and then explain and defend each one of your reasons.

# Letter to the Editor Grading Rubric

15

	3 points	2 points	1 points	0 points
Length and formatting requirements	Letter is between 300 and 500 words with the author's name given at the bottom	Letter is just short of 300 words or longer than 500, or does not list the author's name at the bottom	Letter is significantly short of the 300 word requirement and may not have the author's name given at the bottom	Does not meet any of the length or formatting requirements
Taking a position for or against the use of the bomb	Takes a clear position either for or against the decision by the United States to drop the Atomic Bombs	Takes a position either for or against the decision by the United States to drop the Atomic Bombs. May not be completely clear	Mentions the use of the Atomic Bomb but position, if present is not clear at all	Makes no attempt to take a position on the use of the Atomic Bomb
Reason #1	Reason one is thoroughly explained and defended with no factual errors.	Reason one is explained and defended, but may be lacking some depth or clarity. Small factual errors may be present	Reason one is present, but lacks details and supporting explanation. May have substantial factual errors	Reason #1 is not given at all
Reason #2	Reason two is thoroughly explained and defended with no factual errors.	Reason two is explained and defended, but may be lacking some depth or clarity. Small factual errors may be present	Reason two is present, but lacks details and supporting explanation. May have substantial factual errors	Reason #2 is not given at all
Reason #3	Reason three is thoroughly explained and defended with no factual errors.	Reason three is explained and defended, but may be lacking some depth or clarity. Small factual errors may be present	Reason three is present, but lacks details and supporting explanation. May have substantial factual errors	Reason #3 is not given at all

Total: \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_