STANFORD HISTORY EDUCATION GROUP

READING LIKE A HISTORIAN



Japanese Internment 11.7.5

Background:

On December 7, 1941 Aircraft from a Japanese naval task force attacked the American naval base at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. The next day President Franklin Roosevelt went before Congress to ask for a declaration of war against Japan. With the nation now at war the President issued Executive Order 9066 which authorized the removal of persons with Japanese ancestry to internment camps.

Prompt:

Was it necessary for Japanese Americans to be placed in internment camps during World War II?

Task:

In a well thought out essay:

- Write a claim in response to the prompt.
- Support your claim by using at least five pieces of evidence from the documents, background reading, and additional research on why Japanese Americans were forced to leave their homes and sell many of their possessions.
- Be sure to explain how the evidence you have chosen supports your claim
- Incorporate at least two additional pieces of evidence from the documents and/or your research that argues against your claim and use your evidence to counter that opposing claim.