STANFORD HISTORY EDUCATION GROUP

READING LIKE A HISTORIAN



Atomic Bomb

Background:

Just after 5:29 am on the morning of July 16, 1945 the first atomic device was exploded in the deserts of New Mexico. This was the culmination of the top secret Manhattan Project whose goal was to harness the power of the atom. With this new weapon at his disposal President Harry Truman had to decide whether or not to use it, he chose to use it. On August 6, 1945 the first atomic bomb was used over the Japanese city of Hiroshima and 3 days later another bomb was used over the city of Nagasaki. On August 14, 1945 Japan agrees to surrender unconditionally.

Prompt:

How should we remember the dropping of the atomic bomb?

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 the views that people have had about the use of the atomic bomb.
- 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.