STANFORD HISTORY EDUCATION GROUP READING LIKE A HISTORIAN



Cold War (11.9.3)

Background:

At the close of the Second World War the United States and Soviet Union stood as the strongest of the Allied nations. The Allies agreed to divide Germany and other parts of Europe based in part on where their armies stood at the end of the fighting. Soon after the fragile alliance between the western nations and the Soviet Union began to unravel.

Prompt:

Who was primarily responsible for the Cold War: The United States or the Soviet Union?

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 origins of the Cold War.
- 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.