**Should We Have Dropped the Atomic Bomb?**

**Primary Source Document Activity**

**Directions:** Using the ***Should We Have Dropped the Atomic Bomb?*** primary source packet you will create a list of arguments both for and against the use of the atomic bomb on the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. While completing this activity it is important that you begin to formulate an opinion on the position you will take in your writing prompt.

**Section I: Source Evidence One-Arguments *For* Using the Atomic Bomb**

**Directions:** For each document below cite at least one strong argument made by its author ***justifying*** the use of the atomic bomb.

**Document A.**

**Document B.**

**Document C.**

**Document D.**

**Document E.**

**Document F.**

**Document G.**

**Document H.**

**Document I.**

**Document J.**

**Section II: Source Evidence One-Arguments *Against* Using the Atomic Bomb**

**Directions:** For each document below cite at least one strong argument made by its author ***opposing*** the use of the atomic bomb.

**Document A.**

**Document B.**

**Document C.**

**Document D.**

**Document E.**

**Document F.**

**Document G.**

**Document H.**

**Document I.**

**Document J.**

**Section III: Selecting a position for your writing prompt**

Following the completion of section I and II (the gathering evidence portion) please complete the statement below that best matching your position:

1. I feel that the United States was ***justified*** in dropping the atomic bomb on the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki because…
2. I feel that the United States was ***unjustified*** in dropping the atomic bomb on the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki because…

**Section VI: Writing a claim**

**Directions:** Before you write your short essay response it is imperative that you write a solid claim/thesis statement. Please write your claim/thesis in the box below.

**Claim/Thesis Statement:**

**Tips for how to tell a strong claim/thesis statement from a weak one**

1. ***A strong thesis statement takes some sort of stand.***
	1. Remember that your thesis needs to show your conclusions about a subject.

of muscle and lean body mass, it poses a potential danger to customers.

1. ***A strong thesis statement justifies discussion.***
	1. Your thesis should indicate the point of the discussion.
2. ***A strong thesis statement expresses one main idea.***
	1. Readers need to be able to see that your paper has one main point. If your thesis statement expresses more than one idea, then you might confuse your readers about the subject of your paper.

1. ***A strong thesis statement is specific.***
	1. A thesis statement should show exactly what your paper will be about, and will help you keep your paper to a manageable topic.

**Section V: Writing Prompt**

After completing the primary source activity you will write a short response essay (three to four paragraphs) explaining which position you feel is most justified regarding America’s decision to drop the bomb. When writing your response be sure to use at least two to three pieces of evidence that you recorded from the position matching yours to support your writing. Your writing should address the following prompt: ***Do you believe President Truman was justified in his decision to drop the atomic bomb or do you believe that he could have found another way to convince Japan to surrender?***