

Argumentative Essay Rubric

Essay Question: Should the history of the atomic bombings be told and remembered from above or beneath the mushroom cloud? That is, should this history be told from the perspective of the government officials whose decisions led to the bombings or from the perspective of the people on the ground in Hiroshima and Nagasaki? Why?

Key: 1=not present; 2=minimally present; 3=adequately present; 4=mostly present; 5=completely present, excellent work

CRITERIA	1	2	3	4	5
Essay Structure and Documentation					
Introduction begins with a hook to draw the reader in.					
Thesis clearly states writer's answer to the essay question.					
First paragraph of body presents the strongest supporting argument, with supporting evidence from two or more sources.					
Next paragraph of body presents the second strongest supporting argument, with supporting evidence from two or more sources.					
Next paragraph of body refutes the strongest opposing argument, discounting evidence from two or more sources that might be used to support the opposing argument.					
Conclusion begins with a restatement of the thesis using different words and includes a brief summary of the supporting arguments.					
Conclusion includes no new information or arguments.					
Sources are properly attributed.					
Content/Analysis					
Essay clearly demonstrates understanding of multiple perspectives on why the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.					
Essay clearly demonstrates understanding of damage caused by nuclear weapons and the impacts on civilians at these targets.					
Essay considers sources' validity and reliability.					
Essay includes assessment of competing historical interpretations.					

Comments: