

Name _____



Hiroshima Reflections

Directions: Read the historical passage carefully. Think about the author's description of the event and what values, beliefs, or conflicts are shown. Write a short reflection explaining whether you think the event was **justified, necessary, or fair**.

The Dropping of the Atomic Bomb on Hiroshima (1945)

In August 1945, during the final days of World War II, the United States dropped an atomic bomb on the Japanese city of Hiroshima. The bomb destroyed much of the city instantly, killing tens of thousands of people, with many more dying later from radiation effects. American leaders argued that the bomb was necessary to force Japan's surrender and avoid a costly invasion that could cause even more casualties. Some believed it would also demonstrate U.S. power in the postwar world. Critics, however, argued that Japan was already near defeat and that such a weapon caused unnecessary suffering for civilians. The attack remains one of the most controversial decisions in history, as it both ended the war quickly and opened the nuclear age.

Critical Response Prompt: Do you believe the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima was **justified, necessary, or fair**? Write a **short reflection** that explains your position. Use at least one piece of evidence from the passage to support your reasoning.
