

## Turning Point Impact Answer Key

### Sample Essay Response:

Before Pearl Harbor, the United States tried to stay out of World War II, focusing on recovery from the Great Depression. The attack on December 7, 1941, forced the nation to act, uniting Americans and leading the U.S. to declare war on Japan. This entry turned the tide of the war by adding powerful military and industrial strength to the Allied side. In the long term, America's global leadership and commitment to freedom grew from this moment, making Pearl Harbor a turning point that reshaped both the war and the nation's future.

### Teacher's Guide:

- **Purpose:** Strengthen analytical writing, historical understanding, and critical reflection on cause-and-effect relationships in major world events.
- **Differentiation Tips:**
  - For Grades 7-9: Provide a short word bank (e.g., *neutrality, unity, declaration, alliance, aftermath*) to support vocabulary.
  - For Grades 10-12: Encourage use of transition phrases and historical evidence (e.g., Roosevelt's "Day of Infamy" speech).
- **Engagement Ideas:**
  - Play a short clip of FDR's speech to inspire tone and emotion before students begin writing.
  - Have students share key sentences aloud to build confidence in formal writing.
- **Extension Activities:**
  - Ask students to write a follow-up paragraph describing how Pearl Harbor influenced modern U.S. foreign policy.
  - Encourage creative writing: a diary entry from a soldier, nurse, or citizen on that day.
  - Link the lesson to civic remembrance by having students design a short dedication line for a virtual Pearl Harbor memorial.