**Hiroshima: Why the Bomb Was Dropped**

**Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period:\_\_\_\_**

**This film was produced by ABC News for the 50th anniversary of the August 6, 1945 atomic bombing of Hiroshima, Japan. If you are not present for the in-class showing, you can watch this film on YouTube at:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9-WnLNLe3sk> **(or by just going to YouTube and typing Peter Jennings Hiroshima: Why the Bomb was Dropped into the search window).**

1. How did the makers of the movie, *The Beginning or the End*, change the film to please President Harry Truman?
2. What are some historical errors in the movie’s version of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima?
3. Who was in charge of the Manhattan Project (to build the atomic bomb)?
4. Did Truman agree with General Groves’ statement that Truman was like “a little boy on a toboggan” when it came to deciding whether to use the atomic bomb? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
5. How did Americans view the Japanese differently than the Germans?
6. What impact did the Battle of Okinawa and Japanese kamikaze attacks have on the U.S. decision to use the atomic bomb (instead of invading Japan)?
7. How many Japanese were killed earlier in 1945 by the firebombing of Tokyo?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
8. Along with the firebombings of Hamburg and Dresden, Germany (and the killing of millions of civilians by both the Germans and Japanese during the war), what does this prove had happened to the “moral threshold” that civilians shouldn’t be targeted in war?
9. For what reason(s) was Hiroshima chosen as the first target for an atomic bomb?
10. Who was known as “Mr. Atomic Bomb?”
11. How did Byrnes think the use of the atomic bomb would affect the Soviets?
12. How did diplomatic historian Sam Walker say that Byrnes viewed President Truman?
13. What was the “political option” to get Japan to surrender?
14. In early July 1945, who made one last try to convince Truman to tell Japan it could keep its emperor if it surrendered?
15. What did Secretary of State James Byrnes warn Truman would happen if he made a deal with the Japanese?
16. Once the atomic bomb was successfully tested, what TWO things did Truman no longer need (to win the war against Japan)?
17. Why did Josef Stalin actually know about the atomic bomb even before Truman did?
18. After having used the atomic bomb on Japan, what condition on Japan’s surrender DID Truman accept?
19. Shortly after World War II, what percentage of Americans said they were in favor of us having used the atomic bomb? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
20. What began to change the strength of this opinion and cause some Americans to have regrets about using the bomb?
21. At Truman’s request, who wrote the *Harper’s Weekly* article that explained and defended the need for having used the bomb? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
22. The high casualty estimates (250,000 to 1 million Americans killed or wounded) for a U.S. invasion of Japan have always been cited as a key reason for the U.S. using the atomic bomb instead. Some agree that those figures would have been accurate, some do not. However, what does Sam Walker say Truman probably would have done, even if the predicted American casualties were much, much lower?
23. What are the two “bookends” that the World War II generation sees as representing the beginning and the end of World War II, and as balancing each other out?