Directions:
1. First, read the essay question below, so you have the end goal in mind as you complete this assignment.
2. Second, read the historical background of Japanese internment during WW II.
3. Now look at each of the documents and answer the questions that follow.
4. Finally, re-read the essay question and begin writing your response. Use examples from the background information and the information from the primary sources to back up your statements.
5. Use the rubric as a guide to understanding what is expected from this assignment.

Essay Question:
Was the United States justified in its policy of keeping Japanese Americans in internment camps during World War II?

Historical Background:
On December 7, 1941, the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, a Naval base in Hawaii. The attack caught the United States off guard. Up until that point, the U.S. was taking a neutral stance toward World War II. After the attack, the United States was thrown into the war in full force.

A side-effect of the attack on Pearl Harbor was an immediate distrust for people living in the United States with Japanese ancestry. There was a great fear of another attack on American soil, this time from within. Steps were taken quickly to devise a plan to protect the country from espionage. That plan involved relocating Japanese Americans and their families to camps where they could be watched closely if necessary.

Japanese Americans were broken down into several categories based on how far their generation was separated from Japanese citizenship. People who had emigrated directly from Japan were seen to be a more immediate threat than children whose parents or grandparents left Japan. Japanese Americans who left Japan to come to the United States were often separated from the other generations, their children and grandchildren. They were questioned as to whom they felt the greatest loyalty – the United States or Japan.

Conditions in the camps were often not pleasant. Housing was in the form of barracks. Meals were served in mess halls and were rationed. For the first year or two, many camps did not have formal schools where children could continue their education. There were often not enough doctors or medicines to take care of peoples’ needs.

Once the war was over, people were released from the camps, but they often no longer had homes left to return to. Properties, farms and businesses had been seized and taken over by strangers. It would be another 43 years before the U.S. government would pay surviving members of these camps for their losses.
Document A:

The terrific explosion of the destroyer USS Shaw when her magazine exploded after being bombed by Japanese aircraft in the sneak attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941

National Archives and Records Administration Public Domain Photographs

1. What does this picture represent?
2. What emotions did the attack on Pearl Harbor awaken in the American spirit?
3. Why might it be important that this was an unexpected sneak attack?
Document B:

"1. The Issei -- First generation of Japanese. Entire cultural background Japanese. Probably loyal romantically to Japan. They must be considered, however, as other races. They have made this their home. They have brought up children here, their wealth accumulated by hard labor is here, and many would have become American citizens had they been allowed to do so. They are for the most part simple people. Their age group is largely 55 to 65, fairly old for a hard-working Japanese."

"2. The Nisei -- Second generation who have received their whole education in the United States and usually, in spite of discrimination against them and a certain amount of insults accumulated through the years from irresponsible elements, show a pathetic eagerness to be Americans. They are in constant conflict with the orthodox, well disciplined family life of their elders. Age group -- 1 to 30 years."

"3. The Kibei -- This is an important division of the Nisei. This is the term used by the Japanese to signify those American born Japanese who received part or all of their education in Japan. In any consideration of the KIBEI they should be again divided into two classes, i.e. those who received their education in Japan from childhood to about 17 years of age and those who received their early formative education in the United States and returned to Japan for four or five years Japanese education. The Kibei are considered the most dangerous element and closer to the Issei with special reference to those who received their early education in Japan. It must be noted, however, that many of those who visited Japan subsequent to their early American education come back with added loyalty to the United States. In fact it is a saying that all a Nisei needs is a trip to Japan to make a loyal American out of him. The American educated Japanese is a boor in Japan and treated as a foreigner..."

"4. The SANSEI -- The Third generation of Japanese is a baby and may be disregarded for the purpose of our survey."

Excerpts from “The Munson Report”
Special Representative of the State Department Curtis B. Munson

1. Which of these groups of people is considered the most dangerous and why?
2. Which of these groups is considered the least dangerous and why?
3. Why might white Americans fear any of these groups?
4. Is there evidence here that any of these groups might be a threat to the U.S.?
5. Is there evidence that any of these groups would likely not be a threat at all?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City:</th>
<th>Opened:</th>
<th>Closed:</th>
<th>Peak Population:</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amache, CO</td>
<td>August 24, 1942</td>
<td>October 15, 1945</td>
<td>7,318.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Heart Mountain, WY</td>
<td>August 12, 1942</td>
<td>November 10, 1945</td>
<td>10,767.</td>
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<td>Jerome, AR</td>
<td>October 6, 1942</td>
<td>June 30, 1944</td>
<td>8,497</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manzanar, CA</td>
<td>March 21, 1942</td>
<td>November 21, 1945</td>
<td>10,046.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minidoka, ID</td>
<td>August 10, 1942</td>
<td>October 28, 1945</td>
<td>9,397</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poston, AZ</td>
<td>May 8, 1942</td>
<td>November 28, 1945</td>
<td>17,814</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rohwer, AR</td>
<td>September 18, 1942</td>
<td>November 30, 1945</td>
<td>8,475</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topaz, UT</td>
<td>September 11, 1942</td>
<td>October 31, 1945</td>
<td>8,130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tule Lake, CA</td>
<td>May 27, 1942</td>
<td>March 20, 1946</td>
<td>18,789</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Which three camps were the first ones to open?
2. Which three camps had the highest peak populations?
3. Which state had the most camps?
4. What conclusions can you draw from the map and chart?
**Document D:**

**NOTE:** The following is a picture of a poster, taken by Dorothea Lange. Under the picture are excerpts from the poster. Stars [*******] indicate information that was cut for the purpose of this assignment in order to save space and time.

![Photo by Dorothea Lange.](image)

WESTERN DEFENSE COMMAND AND FOURTH ARMY
WARTIME CIVIL CONTROL ADMINISTRATION
Presidio of San Francisco, California
May 3, 1942

**INSTRUCTIONS**
**TO ALL PERSONS OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY**

Pursuant to the provisions of Civilian Exclusion Order No. 33, this Headquarters, dated May 3, 1942, all persons of Japanese ancestry, both alien and non-alien, will be evacuated from the above area by 12 o'clock noon, P. W. T., Saturday, May 9, 1942.

The Following Instructions Must Be Observed:

1. A responsible member of each family, preferably the head of the family, or the person in whose name most of the property is held, and each individual living alone, will report to the Civil Control Station to receive further instructions. This must be done between 8:00 A. M. and 5:00 P. M. on Monday, May 4, 1942, or between 8:00 A. M. and 5:00 P. M. on Tuesday, May 5, 1942.
2. Evacuees must carry with them on departure for the Assembly Center, the following property:
   - (a) Bedding and linens (no mattress) for each member of the family;
   - (b) Toilet articles for each member of the family;
   - (c) Extra clothing for each member of the family;
(d) Sufficient knives, forks, spoons, plates, bowls and cups for each member of the family;
(e) Essential personal effects for each member of the family.

All items carried will be securely packaged, tied and plainly marked with the name of the owner and numbered in accordance with instructions obtained at the Civil Control Station. The size and number of packages is limited to that which can be carried by the individual or family group.

3. No pets of any kind will be permitted.

4. No personal items and no household goods will be shipped to the Assembly Center.

5. The United States Government through its agencies will provide for the storage, at the sole risk of the owner, of the more substantial household items, such as iceboxes, washing machines, pianos and other heavy furniture. Cooking utensils and other small items will be accepted for storage if crated, packed and plainly marked with the name and address of the owner. Only one name and address will be used by a given family.

6. Each family and individual living alone will be furnished transportation to the Assembly Center or will be authorized to travel by private automobile in a supervised group. All instructions pertaining to the movement will be obtained at the Civil Control Station.

Go to the Civil Control Station between the hours of 8:00 A. M. and 5:00 P. M.,
Monday, May 4, 1942, or between the hours of 8:00 A. M. and 5:00 P. M.,
Tuesday, May 5, 1942, to receive further instructions.

J. L. DeWITT
Lieutenant General, U. S. Army
Commanding

SEE CIVILIAN EXCLUSION ORDER NO. 33.
Camp Amache in southeast Colorado is shown between 1942 and 1945 where 7,000 Japanese-Americans spent three years in the internment camp during World War II.

Department of Defense

1. What does this picture represent?
2. What kind of living conditions can you depict from the picture?
Document F:

Volleyball, [i.e. volleyball] Manzanar Relocation Center, Calif. / photo by Ansel Adams
Library of Congress, LOT 10479-4, no. 23 [P&P]

1. Does this camp look similar to Camp Amache?
2. Do the conditions look better, worse, or about the same?
3. What do you think the attitudes are of the girls playing volleyball?
4. Why do you think there aren’t any boys in the picture?
Essay Question and Instructions:
Write a five paragraph essay answering the following…

| Was the United States justified in its policy of keeping Japanese Americans in internment camps during World War II? |

Use the answers to the questions for each document and the information in the historical background to support your argument. Follow the rubric below as a guide.

Rubric:
A:
• stays on topic throughout the essay, answering the question presented
• supports all opinions with historical and primary source information

B:
• mostly stays on topic and answers the question presented
• supports most of the opinions with historical and primary source information

C:
• strays somewhat from the topic and original question given
• uses some historical and primary source information to support his or her opinions

D:
• frequently gets off topic and loses sight of the overall question
• uses only a few facts from the historical background or documents provided to support his or her opinions

F:
• does not answer the question given at all
• uses opinions only, does not support statements with any facts