

The Atomic Bomb

| For | Against |
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| The Japanese wage total war. They will keep fighting until every last Japanese soldier, sailor and pilot is dead. Dropping the atomic bomb will probably bring a quick end to the war. | The Japanese are losing the war and they know it. Surely they will surrender by the end of 1945. |
| Designing and building the atomic bombs cost almost \$2 billion in 1945 (today that would be over \$21 billion). If America does not drop the bombs, it is a waste of money. | The world has never seen an atomic bomb used before. If America drops atomic bombs on Japan, it will be the first country in the world to use nuclear weapons. Do we really want that on our conscience? |
| The longer America fights, the more American lives are lost. Dropping the atomic bombs will save thousands of American lives. | The targets for the bombs are not military bases. They are cities with thousands of civilians. Dropping the bombs will kill thousands of Japanese—mainly the elderly and women & children—who are not in the military. |
| Japan deserves it for attacking Pearl Harbor. | It is immoral to knowingly kill so many civilians, even if they are our enemy. |

Today, we learned about the atomic bombs that were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. In three sentences, answer the following questions:

Do you think America was right to drop the atomic bombs? Why or why not?