Dropping the Bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki

- **The major theme** for this lesson plan is to understand the reason for the USA at that time to use atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Japan.
- **Learning objective** will be to understand the debate about the use of the Atomic bomb on civilians. Was the use of atomic bombs on Japanese civilians necessary to end the war with Japan?
- **Materials** will include computer use as students will be required to research these 3 websites in order to learn about the events leading up to the decision by the U.S. to use nuclear weapons against Japan in 1945:
  - [www.dannen.com/decision/index.html](http://www.dannen.com/decision/index.html)
  - [www.trumanlibrary.org/teacher/abomb/htm](http://www.trumanlibrary.org/teacher/abomb/htm)
  - Printed out KWL chart for students to use for this lesson with the question stating: What do you know about the events of August 6 and 9, 1945 regarding the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki Japan?
- **Assignment**: Students will start out with the KWL chart and fill out the first two sections of the chart. Teacher will start discussions about the things they know already to assess prior knowledge. After some minutes of class discussion, the teacher will play at least two sections from the CD that is included in the book by Diana Wickes Roose on survivor stories from bomb victims of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The assignment about using the 3 designated internet sites will then be passed out and the students will research the sites to learn about the debate on the decision to drop the atomic bomb on civilian sites in Japan. A student activity is included at the third site, that has 8 questions to help with document analysis, with the culminating activity being the student has to write a letter addressed to President Truman advising him on the decision to drop the bomb or not to drop the bomb on civilian cities in Japan. The decision is the student’s individual one and information must be used from the sources they have used in order to support their opinion. This assignment should take two 47-minute class periods with the letter and questions from the website turned in the following day.
- **K-12 Ohio State Academic Content Standards**
  - Social Studies Content Standard- History “Students use materials drawn from the diversity of human experience to analyze and interpret significant events, patterns and themes in the history of Ohio, the United States, and the world.”
11. Analyze the consequences of World War II including:
   a. Atomic weapons