

Chautauqua Summer Institute
June 20-24, 2007

Lesson Plan

Lesson Plan Title: 'To Drop the Bomb; or Nor

Concept! Topic To Teach: The development of atomic weapons; the decision to use the weapons to end WWII; and the controversy raised over the use of such weapons

Grade Level: 10-12

Duration: 4 days

General Goal(s): Have students begin to realize how the world changed forever with the dropping of the atomic weapons during WWII

Specific Objectives: Students will study the Einstein letter; the Manhattan Project; the Trinity Test; the dropping of the bombs; and criticism of the decision.

Required Materials: DVD player; DVDs ('The Einstein Letter and 'The Enola Gay'); handouts of primary source materials (letters from Einstein, Oppenheimer₁ and Soundby after the bombing of Japan)

Primary Sources Used: letters from Einstein, Oppenheimer, and Soundby

Step-By-Step Procedures: (1) View DVD 'The Einstein letter (2) complete worksheet accompanying the DVD (3) Discussion over Manhattan Project (4) View DVD 'The Enola Gay' (5) Discuss the physical devastation caused by the bomb (6) Discuss options other than using the bomb (1) complete worksheet over the Manhattan Project (8) distribute primary source materials (see above) (9) students write summary of lesson and draw their own conclusions

Reteach: Outline and review of important materials and facts

Assessment: (a) worksheet 1(10 points); (b) worksheet 2 (10 points);
(c) written summary (30 points); (d) quiz (50 points)