Created by: Linda Hamilton, Cleveland PreK-8

Grade level: 8

Primary Source Citation: “U.S Declares War on Japan,” Dayton Daily News, December 8, 1941, vol. 65, no. 110, front page.

Allow students, in groups or individually, to examine the article’s headline while answering the questions below in order. The questions are designed to guide students into a deeper analysis of the source and sharpen associated cognitive skills.

Level I: Description

1. What do you feel when you see this headline?
2. When do you think this headline was printed?
3. When do you think this happened?
4. Do you recognize anything else in the copy?

Level II: Interpretation

1. What does this headline mean to Americans?
2. What else can you read besides the headline?
3. What do you think the picture looked like?
4. Can you read the date?

Level III: Analysis

1. How long do you think the war will last?
2. Why was war declared?
3. How many people will be killed in the war?
4. How does this war end?
U.S. DECLARES WAR ON JAPAN

War Declared On Japan By Great Britain

1500 DIE IN JAP ATTACK

FOURTH EXTRA

Dayton Youth Enlist As War Flares

Battleship, Planes And Destroyer Lost

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8—President Roosevelt asked a united congress to declare war against Japan after revealing that American forces lost two destroyers and 484 dead and wounded in the Japanese surprise attack on Pearl Harbor.

The president made no mention of Guam and Iceland, Republics making the instant war declaration had already been suggested as the course of action, before