I am an American

Addyson McGarry

Junior Division/Exhibit

Word Count: 450

My grandfather was eight years old when he and his family were taken from their home in Los Angeles, California and locked away in the internment camps. They were American citizens, born in the United States with no connection to Japan other than their ancestry. I've been told their story since I was really young by my family, but I've never been formally educated about it in school. I think that the internment camps are a big part of U.S. history, but they are often forgotten. The internment camps fit the theme of debate, diplomacy, and successes, failures, and consequences. For debate, Hirabayashi v. The United States shows how the U.S. argued that internment camps were a military necessity, while Japanese Americans protested that it was a violation of their constitutional rights. All of the factors including anti-immigration laws, widespread racism, and the erasure of General DeWitts final report contributed to Order 9066 being passed, even though it was illegal. This is related to diplomacy, the act of dealing with people, Japanese Americans, in a tactical way. Lastly, the way Muslim Americans were treated after 9/11 is similar to the way Japanese Americans were treated after Pearl Harbor. Hate crimes and racism towards Muslim Americans is still common, and is even seen in the U.S. government. This shows that the country has not learned from the previous tragedy of Japanese American incarceration and racism, carrying it on to a new generation.

When I began my research, I read books by survivors of the camps. This prompted me to look into other sources, such as court transcripts and the Library of Congress. I relied heavily on internet sources, most of them from websites that focused on Japanese American history in the United States.

I created an exhibit board using pictures and quotes that related to my research. I included a historical background panel to educate my audience on the internment camps, especially because they are not always taught in schools. I also had pictures from major causes that led to the camps like Hirabayashi v. The United States and DeWitts final report. When it was all out together, I used string to connect images and excerpts from sections of the board together to help the viewers draw parallels between different events.

My historical argument is that the Constitution did not protect the rights of Japanese Americans because of their race. The reason that they were treated unfairly during WWII was due to fear and prejudice that the country already had towards them, and this led to the Constitution being overlooked.

Japanese internment camps are significant in U.S. history because they are one of many examples of how minorities have been treated unfairly. Japanese Americans were innocent, yet they were imprisoned for three whole years behind barbed wire. They were feared because of their race, similar to how other groups have been treated.

## **Annotated Bibliography**

## **Primary Sources**

Alfonseca, Kiara. "20 Years after 9/11, Islamophobia Continues to Haunt Muslims - ABC News." ABC News, ABC News, 11 Sept. 2021, https://abcnews.go.com/US/20-years-911-islamophobia-continues-haunt-muslims/story ?id=79732049.

This is a primary source. It is a quote from Rep. Ilhan Omar on racism towards Muslim Americans after 9/11. This supports my argument by showing how Muslim Americans felt after experiencing prejudice. The only limitation is that the date of the interview is not listed.

"Assaults against Muslims in U.S. Surpass 2001 Level | Pew Research Center." *Pew Research Center*, https://www.facebook.com/pewresearch, https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/11/15/assaults-against-muslims-in-u-s-sur pass-2001-level/. Accessed 2 Feb. 2022.

This is a primary source. It is a graph depicting hate crimes against Muslims in the U.S. from 2000 to 2016. It supports my argument by showing spikes in crime following 9/11 and the Presidential election. There are no limitations.

DeWitt, General John. Final Report, Japanese Evacuation from the West Coast, 1942. 1943.

This is a primary source. General DeWitt released The Final Report: Japanese Evacuation from the West Coast in 1942. It furthers my argument by showing the reasoning for internment camps. There are no limitations.

## DeWitt, J. L. RiversideCA, 19 May 1942,

https://www.riversideca.gov/museum/pdf/Reading/instructions.pdf.

This is a primary source. It is an archive of government instructions regarding Japanese relocation in California. It furthers my argument by showing why some Japanese Americans were arrested for refusing to report to camps. The only limitation is that the whole picture of the document is cut out, so you cannot see the entire print.

Diamond, Jeremy. "Trump's Latest Executive Order: Banning People from 7 Countries and More | CNN Politics." *CNN*, CNN, 28 Jan. 2017, https://www.cnn.com/2017/01/27/politics/donald-trump-refugees-executive-order/ .html.

This is a primary source. It is a picture showing President Trump signing Order 13796. This furthers my argument by showing the similarity of the order to anti-immigration laws placed on Japanese Americans. There are no limitations.

"Gordon Hirabayashi Challenges Japanese American Exclusion Orders on May 16, 1942. -HistoryLink.Org." *The Free Online Encyclopedia of Washington State History -HistoryLink.Org*, https://www.historylink.org/file/3358. Accessed 3 Feb. 2022.

This is a primary source. It is Gordon Hirabayashi in 1940. It furthers my argument by showing who challenged the U.S. in the case Hirabayashi v. The United States. The only limitation is that there is no author.

History.com Editors. "Pearl Harbor." *HISTORY*, A&E Television Networks, 2 Dec. 2021, https://www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/pearl-harbor.

This is a primary source. It is a picture of Pearl Harbor in Hawaii after it was attacked on December 7th, 1941 by Japan. It furthers my argument by showing one of the causing factors of fear towards Japanese Americans. The only limitation is that there is no author listed.

Keys, Barbara. "World Politics Explainer: The Twin-Tower Bombings (9/11)." The Conversation, https://facebook.com/ConversationEDU, 4 Oct. 2018, https://theconversation.com/world-politics-explainer-the-twin-tower-bombings-9-11-101443.

This is a primary source. It is an image of the World Trade Center in New York on September 11, 2000. It furthers my argument by showing the causing factor of fear towards Muslim Americans. There are no limitations.

Linder, Doug. "AG Biddle Letter Opposing Japanese-American Relocation." *Famous Trials*, https://famous-trials.com/korematsu/2562-ag-biddle-letter-opposing-japanese-relocation. Accessed 27 Jan. 2022.

This is a primary source. It is a picture of a letter that Attorney General Francis Biddle sent to the Secretary of War. It helps my argument by proving that the U.S. government believed that Japanese internment camps were illegal, but went through with it anyway. The website seems to be reliable and the author is a historian and law professor.

"On May 03, 1913: California Law Prohibits Asian Immigrants from Owning Land." *Home* | *A History of Racial Injustice*, https://calendar.eji.org/racial-injustice/may/3. Accessed 27 Jan. 2022.

This is a primary source. It is a picture of hateful, anti-Japanese signs on a home in California. This supports my argument by showing how the public responded to Japanese immigrants in a racist and hateful manner. The only limitations are that it doesn't show the date when the picture was taken or whose house it is.

"Our Documents - Transcript of Executive Order 9066: Resulting in the Relocation of Japanese (1942)." *Welcome to OurDocuments.Gov*, https://www.ourdocuments.gov/doc.php?flash=false&doc=74&page=transcript. Accessed 27 Jan. 2022.

This is a primary source. This is a transcript of Order 9066 that was passed by President Roosevelt in 1942. This supports my argument by providing the reason for Japanese incarceration. This is a credible source because it is from a government-owned website.

"President Roosevelt Signing the Declaration of War against Japan - B&w Film Copy Neg. from File Print | Library of Congress." *The Library of Congress*, Dec. 1941, https://www.loc.gov/resource/cph.3a17434/.

This is a primary source. It is a picture of President Roosevelt signing the Declaration of War against Japan in 1941. It furthers my argument by showing the reasoning behind signing the order was out of fear that Japanese Americans were spies and a threat to national security. There are no limitations.

Public Law 100-383. 10 Aug. 1988,

https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/STATUTE-102/pdf/STATUTE-102-Pg903.pdf.

This is a primary source. This is a copy of Public Law 100-383 which granted \$20,000 and a presidential apology to every surviving U.S. citizen. This furthers my argument by showing the U.S. apologized for Japanese internment camps. This is a credible source from a government-owned website.

Smith, Rasheeda. "Fear Itself: The General Who Panicked the West Coast." *HistoryNet*, HistoryNet, 11 July 2017, https://www.historynet.com/fear-itself-the-general-panicked-west-coast.htm.

This is a primary source. It is a picture of General DeWitt who was in charge of the safety of the West Coast in the U.S. during WWII.

It furthers my argument by showing who was partly responsible for Japanese incarceration. There are no limitations.

Takei, George. "'At Least During the Internment …' Are Words I Thought I'd Never Utter – Foreign Policy." *Foreign Policy*, Foreign Policy, 1942, https://foreignpolicy.com/2018/06/19/at-least-during-the-internment-are-words-i-thoug ht-id-never-utter-family-separation-children-border/.

This is a primary source. It is an image of a mother and her child at the Santa Anita Assembly Center in 1942. It furthers my argument by showing how even innocent children were locked up. There are no limitations.

"The Constitution of the United States: A Transcription | National Archives." *National Archives*, 4 Nov. 2015, https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/constitution-transcript.

This is a primary source. It is the original U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights proved by the U.S. government. It furthers my argument by providing reasoning as to why Japanese internment camps were unconstitutional. It is a credible source made by the National Archives.

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This is a primary source. It is an image of the Supreme Court that ruled from 1941-1946. This supports my argument by showing who ruled in the case, Hirabayashi v. The United States. There are no limitations.

## **Secondary Sources**

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This is a secondary source. It provides a background on anti-Japanese exclusion movements in the early 1900s. It supports my argument by providing quotes from political leaders who were against Japanese immigration. This is a credible source on Japanese incarceration.

"Fred Korematsu - I Was an American Citizen, and I Had As..." *BrainyQuote*, https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/fred\_korematsu\_806807. Accessed 27 Jan. 2022.

This is a secondary source. It is a quote from Fred Korematsu who was a civil rights activist against Japanese internment camps. It supports my argument by showing how Japanese Americans felt after being imprisoned. The limitations of this source are that the author is unknown and the website could be unreliable.

Goldstein, Richard. "Gordon Hirabayashi, WWII Internment Opponent, Was 93 - The New York Times." *The New York Times - Breaking News, US News, World News and Videos*, 4 Jan. 2012, https://www.nytimes.com/2012/01/04/us/gordon-hirabayashi-wwii-internment-opponen t-dies-at-93.html.

This is a secondary source. It is a quote from Gordon Hirabayashi in 1985 explaining how his citizenship didn't prevent him from being wrongfully imprisoned. This further my argument by showing how the Constitution didn't protect Japanese Americans. The only limitation is that other parts of the quote were cut out.

Higgs, Robert. "A Predecessor of George W. Bush's Contempt for the Constitution | Robert Higgs." *The Beacon*, 6 Aug. 2008, https://blog.independent.org/2008/08/06/a-predecessor-of-george-w-bushs-contempt-fo r-the-constitution/.

This is a secondary source because it is a quote taken from a historical figure and selected from the original source by the author. It is a quote from Secretary of War, John J. McCloy on the U.S. Constitution. It furthers my argument by showing how the Constitution was disregarded when Order 9066 was signed. The only limitation of this source is that it is written in a political blog, but the author seems to be educated on the topic.

"Hirabayashi v. United States, 627 F. Supp. 1445 (W.D. Wash. 1986) :: Justia." *Justia Law*, https://law.justia.com/cases/federal/district-courts/FSupp/627/1445/1974210/. Accessed 27 Jan. 2022.

This is a secondary source. It is a transcript of Hirabayashi v. The United States. It supports my argument by showing the argument of the U.S. government in reasoning why internment camps were constitutional and sheds light on how evidence was withheld in the original case. This is a reliable source and is the same as the original transcript.

Lopez, German. "A New FBI Report Says Hate Crimes — Especially against Muslims — Went up in 2016 - Vox." *Vox*, Vox, 13 Nov. 2017, https://www.vox.com/identities/2017/11/13/16643448/fbi-hate-crimes-2016.

This is a secondary source. It is a statistic on hate crimes towards Muslim Americans in 2016, researched by the FBI. It furthers my argument by showing how Trump influenced Muslim prejudice. The only limitation is that the article may be biased.

This is a secondary source. It provides a quote from President Woodrow Wilson about his opinion on Asian immigration to the United States. It supports my argument by showing how racism against Asian immigrants was widespread throughout the country. This is a credible source, the only limitations are that the author is not listed.

Negae, Peggy. "Minoru Yasui (1916–1986)." *The Oregon Encyclopedia*, https://www.oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/yasui\_minoru\_1916\_1986\_/#.YfwFShPM Lrc. Accessed 3 Feb. 2022.

This is a secondary source. It is a quote from Minoru Yasui about how we as U.S. citizens need to stand up to our government, especially in cases like the internment camps. It furthers my argument that the U.S, has not learned from its mistakes in the camps. There are no limitations.

"Racial Profiling | Costs of War." *The Costs of War*, https://watson.brown.edu/costsofwar/costs/social/rights/profiling. Accessed 3 Feb. 2022.

This is a secondary source. It provides a statistic on hate crime percentage towards Muslims in the United States. It furthers my argument by showing how prejudice against Muslims after 9/11 is similar to prejudice after Pearl Harbor to Japanese Americans. The only limitation is that the source of the statistic is not listed.

Stevenson, Bryan. Just Mercy. First, 2016, p. 14.

This is a secondary source. It is a statistic on incarceration for black males in the U.S. It furthers my argument by showing how minorities are incarcerated more than white Americans. The only limitation is that there is not a listed source.

<sup>&</sup>quot;---." *A History of Racial Injustice*, https://calendar.eji.org/racial-injustice/may/3. Accessed 27 Jan. 2022.





Peorl Harbor was attacked on becember 7th. 1941 by Joban This bombing led to the 0.5 imprisonment of Jobanese Americans (History.com

Executive Order 9066, passed February 19th. 1942 by President Roosevelt following the events of Pearl Harbor, ordered all Jopan Americans and immigrants to relocate to government internment camps 120,000 children were imprisoned for three vears ("President Roosevelt Signing to Decloration of War against Jopan - 85% Filt Copy Neg. from File Print | Library of Congress")

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Plastered across the West Coast for Japanese American citizens to see. Some resisted instructions to report to internment comps, resulting in them bying arrested by the FBI. (DeWitt)



This is an image of a mother and child at the Santa Anita Assembly Center in 1942. (Takei)

This is a photo of barracks that Japanese Americans were forced to relocate to, this specifically is from the Granada War Relocation Center (McClelland) The internment of Jap Americans in the U.S. blatant example of ha Constitution has and protect the life, li property of all of i citizens.

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