

We Must Never Forget - WWII

Historical Writing

- **Historical Writing** = relating past events to the present.
- Use examples of what makes the event interesting today.
- Look at the event from the point of view of that era.
- Think of yourself as the historian; what do others need to know?



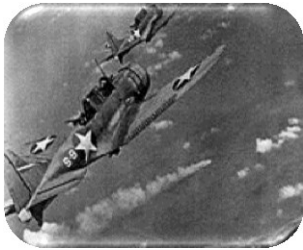
Dorie Miller

Essay #1: On December 7, 1941 the Japanese military attacked Pearl Harbor, HI. The unprovoked bombing killed 2,471 and wounded 1,213 Americans. In the midst of danger, heroes like Dorie Miller of the *USS Arizona* emerged to help wounded crewmates to safety. What makes people like Dorie Miller stay to assist others, risking their own lives?

(8-12 sentences)



USS Arizona sunk at Pearl Harbor



Essay #2: The Battle of Midway in 1942 was the turning point in the war against Japan. A large Japanese fleet was detected, and **Torpedo Squadron 8** was given the mission to disrupt the fleet while the US Navy prepared. The squadron had no other help, and knew they would likely not survive the mission. Only 3 of 36 pilots returned safely. Explain Torpedo Squadron 8's bravery. What made their actions heroic? **(8-12 sentences)**



Essay #3: On June 6, 1944 the **D-Day** invasion began as the turning point of WWII in Europe. Led by American, British, and Canadian troops, 160,000 soldiers crossed the English Channel and landed on continental Europe. As the first American troops reached Omaha Beach, they were trapped by German gunfire and a steep bluff. A few brave soldiers decided to push forward and fight back, allowing the rest of the group to safely follow. What do you think made the soldiers move forward when retreating would have been much safer? **(8-12 sentences)**



D-Day landing at Omaha Beach (France)
June 6, 1944



Enola Gay crewmembers (1945)

Essay #4: In August 1945, President Truman made the tough decision to drop two **atomic bombs** on Japan. The bombs killed an estimated 190,000 people. The decision to drop the bombs was based on continued Japanese military attacks, as well as atrocities against American prisoners and other Asian countries. Japan surrendered a week later. Because the bombs suddenly ended the war, President Truman estimated they saved 500,000-1,000,000 lives, since an invasion of Japan was no longer needed. If our WWII enemies, Japan and Germany, had invented the nuclear bomb first, do you think they would have used it against America? **(8-12 sentences)**