**Subject area/course**: History/World History

**Grade level/band**: 10

**Task source**: Envision Schools; Author: Erin Brandvold

**WWII and the Holocaust**

**STUDENT INSTRUCTIONS**

1. **Task context**:

In the months leading up to this task, we have examined WWI and the Russian revolution to determine the effects that leaders’ decisions have on their countries and people. We have also discussed the extent to which both of these events were justified. While studying these topics, we have focused on writing and supporting historical arguments by examining reliable and relevant sources, and we have practiced the construction of 4- and 5- paragraph essays.

In this unit, we will study WWII and the Holocaust. In history, we will learn how WWI led to Hitler’s rise to power and how different countries responded to Hitler's use of power.  We will study the Holocaust and how individual people in Europe responded to the unfolding events of the Holocaust around them.  Finally, we will study the end of WWII and the United States' use of the atomic bomb against Japan.

In English, we will learn the background of the Holocaust and read Elie Wiesel’s memoir Night as one example of the effects of Hitler’s leadership on the people of Europe.

1. **Final product**:

You will choose one aspect of WWII to research and compose a Historical Research or Inquiry Essay. In your examination of the different aspects of WWII, you will answer one of the following questions, or write a question of your own:

* How did countries respond to Hitler’s use of power in Europe prior to World War II?
* How did European citizens and the World War II Allies respond to the unfolding events of the Holocaust?
* Can the U.S. atomic bombing of Japan be compared in any way to the Holocaust?

Your job is to conduct research about the questions above, use your research to answer the question with a strong argument, and then explain your findings in a 5-paragraph Historical Research/Inquiry essay.

Following your completion of the essay, you will use your research findings to participate in a mock UN meeting to discuss how we should respond to similar events occurring in the world today.

To conduct your research, you will complete 3-4 source cards using at least 2 primary sources. Each source card must include:

* Title of article, name of author, correct citation, and identification as either a primary or secondary source
* Complete context information about the origins of the source: its author, purpose, and audience o 3-4 pieces of relevant evidence
* Analysis of evidence that provides a clear explanation and connection back to the question

Then, using your research, you will write a 5-paragraph Historical Research or Inquiry paper that fulfills the following requirements:

* An introduction that includes:
  + Detailed historical context about your topic
* A clear argument that answers your research question
  + 3 body paragraphs that include:
    - A topic sentence that explains one claim that supports your argument
    - 2 pieces of evidence that are introduced with information about the origins of the sources you used (context)
    - Clear analysis of each piece of evidence that shows how it supports your argument
* A conclusion that includes:
  + A summary of your argument
  + A discussion of your research, including the reliability/credibility of your sources, alternative answers to your question, and discrepancies you found while conducting your research.

**Additional Information**

1. **Knowledge and skills you will need to demonstrate on this task:**

* Inquiry Only: I can ask a relevant historical question.
* I can develop a historical argument.
* I can use evidence to support my argument.
* I can effectively analyze evidence.
* I know and can use accurate and relevant historical content.
* I can organize and structure my argument effectively. I can use language to effectively communicate my ideas.

1. **Materials needed:**

Base your research on appropriate and valid sources. Make sure to use balanced and unbiased sources for information concerning the topic you have chosen – this means you will need to use more than just Internet sites for this component of the paper. Depending on the question you choose to answer, you may wish to conduct Google searches using such phrases as "Jewish refugees from Nazi Germany," "Should the Allies have bombed Auschwitz?," or "Comparing Holocaust to Atomic bombing of Japan." Such Internet searches are one way to start researching your topic, but you should use the links provided critically by paying attention to the scholarly or other qualifications of their authors. In addition, you will need the following:

* Blank source cards or note cards for taking notes on your sources
* Access to a library or computers connected to the Internet
* Printer for students’ research (optional)

1. **Time requirements:**

This task will take approximately 3-4 weeks to complete. Your teacher will provide details regarding timelines and due dates.

1. **Scoring:**

Your work will be scored using the SCALE/Envision History/Social Science Research or Inquiry rubric. You should make sure you are familiar with the language that describes the expectations for proficient performance.