

Name: _____

Date: _____

Guiding Questions for the Final Part of President Truman's August 9, 1945 Speech

Directions: After you read the final part of President Truman's August 9, 1945 speech, consider the questions below.

1. After stating that the first atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, President Truman calls that attack "only a warning of things to come" and says, "If Japan does not surrender, bombs will have to be dropped on war industries...." Consider what else happened on the day of the speech. What conclusions can you draw?
2. President Truman says that he has appointed a committee to prepare plans for the future control of the atomic bomb. Do you think he had found a way to control the bomb? If not, what might it take for the world community to do so? Can one country do it alone?
3. President Truman used phrases, such as "governments have given the Japanese people adequate warning," "we wished to avoid, insofar as possible, the killing of civilians," and "I realize the tragic significance of the atomic bomb." Consider what you know about the estimated losses of life in the planned invasion of Japan, and the effects of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Do you think he did realize the significance of the use of the bomb on two Japanese cities? Explain your response.