Problem Solving Assignment

The Atomic Bomb in World War II

By the late spring of 1945, it was clear that the USA had defeated Japan during World War II. Clear to everyone, apparently, but Japan who continued to fight on. Back in the US, new President Truman was presented with evidence of a new weapon for the US, the Atomic Bomb. After discussion and further action in the summer, by August the decision was made to drop the bomb on Japan. This happened August 6, 1945 on the city of Hiroshima. After appeals by Truman for the Japanese to surrender lest more cities were destroyed seemed to fall on deaf ears, on August 9, 1945, another bomb was dropped on Nagasaki.

Your assignment is to investigate this decision. Should the USA have dropped the two atomic bombs on Japan or not?

You will assisted in this assignment by library Mr. Erich Heintzelman. He will assist you in understanding the process of “Information Literacy”—how one starts research, gathers information, evaluates the use of that information and applies the information.

The assignment will be graded in conjunction with the librarian. He will assign 44 of the possible 100 points for this assignment. You should consult the rubric for how that grading will be accomplished.

The remaining points for your final grade will come through me. Consult the rubric for direction in this regard.

On the due date, we will hold a discussion in class. You will present your findings in our typical small group clusters. You will then, after, present your research with me, being prepared for critical cross-examination. Finally, the full research will be presented in a written paper (3-4 pages) that develops your thesis and opinion.