**Inquiry Based Lesson: The Nanking Massacre**

**Overview:** Prior to World War II, Japan invaded Manchuria and Southeast Asia, claiming to be liberating Asia from Western imperialism. When Japanese armies took the Chinese capital of Nanking in 1937, they burned the city and massacred between 100,000 and 300,000 Chinese. In what came to be called “The Rape of Nanking,” Japanese soldiers brutally raped some 20,000 Chinese women, then killed them or left them to die.

**Problem:** There are two sides to this conflict: Japan and China. Both sides have different accounts about what happened at Nanking. Who should you believe? What actually happened and how many were killed?

**Communication:** You will communicate your answers to this question via a persuasive essay (minimum one page). You must choose and defend your side. Make sure to draw on the discussions we had in class about whether human nature is good or evil.

**Remember:** Both sides believe they are correct and thus present very compelling websites. Be leery of what you read. Question the validity of everything!

**Paper Format:**

1. **Introduction**
2. Preview main points
3. Thesis statement
4. **Body Paragraphs**
5. Paragraph 1
6. Evidence (Cite sources)
7. Evidence
8. Paragraph 2
9. Evidence (Cite sources)
10. Evidence
11. **Conclusion**
12. Concluding Remarks
13. Restate Thesis

**Annotated Bibliography:**

**Answer the following questions:**

What is the main, or most significant idea of this source?

What is the author trying to do (purpose)?

Is there any bias or slant in the source?

Does the evidence clearly support the author’s main points?

Should you use this in your paper?

**Annotated Bibliography**

Hadsell, L. (2009). The “Rape” of Nanking. Journal of Japanese History, 84(3), 135-141.

This site provided basic information about the Nanking Massacre. It does raise some important issues about why this terrible atrocity took place. It is not an academic source so it does leave questions for me. It does list some primary sources. In general, I would not use this site in my research paper unless I could corroborate the information with another more trustworthy source.

Mills, Geoffrey E.. *Justice at Nanking*. Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Merrill, 2011. Print.

This article discusses the Nanking Massacre from the Chinese standpoint. It draws on the first hand experience of three survivors. The article includes discussion of gendercide and genocide. This sources present a grim story as to what happened in Nanking in 1937. The summary and general discussion provided a good overview of the specific examples of what happened in Nanking. This could be used in the research paper to support a conclusion.

**How you will be graded:**

**Instructor Evaluation**  *(each “Yes” is worth 3 points) 85 points possible*

**Body of Report**

Introduction previews main points, includes thesis

Written mostly in author's own words

Essay uses evidence to support claims

Conclusion summarizes and reinforces authors opinion

Includes author's own ideas & judgments about the Nanking Massacre

**Mechanics of Report**

Length is minimum of 1 page, maximum of 3 pages

Double spaced, 10 to 12 Times New Roman, Margins are 1"

Good sentences, no fragments or run-ons

Correct spelling and grammar (maximum 4 errors)

Correct capitalization & punctuation (max. 2 errors)

Turned in rubric

**Sources**

At least two sources are used for the essay

Primary source is used & appears in body of report

Min. 2 citations used & properly identified in body (in text)

Correct Annotated Bibliography at end of report 4 sources (MLA)

**Knowledge/Understanding**

#### Reliability and validity of historical information

**0 5 10 15 20**

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**Comments:**

### Thinking/Inquiry

Use of critical thinking skills and research process.

**0 5 10 15 20**

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**Comments:**