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## The Synthesis Solution Protocol REVIEW & EVALUATION MODEL – U.S. WAS JUSTIFIED

This form should be completed separately by the sides that took part in a classroom debate or structured argumentation activity.

### The Other Side's Arguments

Identify the strongest argument made by the other side in the debate.

The strongest argument that the other side made was that the U.S. could have demonstrated the power of atomic weapons to Japan to warn them.

Analyze what makes the argument strong. Is it the evidence, reasoning, or both?

The other side has credible evidence that a demonstration to the Japanese of the power of the atomic bomb would have been possible. Their evidence doesn't say that the Japanese leadership would have surrendered if they had witnessed the destructive power of the bomb, but it does stand to reason that they would have taken into serious account what such a weapon would have done if it were dropped on their populated cities. The other side's reasoning makes it clear that there is a practical possibility that the demonstration would have worked. This argument – actually in combination with the argument that the atomic bombs killed a lot of innocent people – has some argumentative force.

Identify the strongest counter-argument or refutation made by the other side in the debate.

The strongest example of refutation by the other side was their critique of our counter-argument that Japan was committed to fighting till the death.

Analyze what makes the counter-argument strong. Is it the evidence, critique, or what (in specific)?

They pointed out that this evidence quotes President Truman who did have a very strong motivation to justify his use of atomic weapons. Truman very much wanted to convince the American public, and indeed the world, that there was no way to end World War II other than devastating the Japanese mainland and inflicting mass casualties on their people. To prove this point, we would have been better off citing an independent expert who used facts from the war to back up his conclusion.

### **Your Side's Arguments**

Identify the weakest argument or counter-argument made by your side in the debate.

The weakest argument that we made was the third argument in our case: that the U.S. had to try to intimidate the Soviet Union, because the Soviet Union was emerging as our primary enemy and was working on building its own nuclear weapons.

Analyze what makes the argument weak. Is it the evidence, reasoning, depth of critique?

This argument overall is weak. Its claim on its face – even if it were very well supported by evidence and reasoning – isn't very convincing as a reason that our overall position is true. As the other side pointed out in its counter-arguments, having to demonstrate toughness around another adversary is no justification for using atomic bombs on cities, killing thousands of civilians. Further, the evidence to support the claim is highly insufficient. It only proves what is relatively obvious or basic in historical information: that the U.S. – Soviet rivalry was the essence of the Cold War. This doesn't go very far to prove that the U.S. needed to use nuclear weapons in World War II in order to win, or even get out ahead in, the Cold War.