

Directions: After students have listened to President Roosevelt's "Day of Infamy" speech and read the Pearl Harbor Fact Sheet, begin a class discussion using the following questions. Encourage all students to participate openly, honestly, and with a sense of tolerance. Put all answers on the back or a separate sheet of paper.

1. We heard President Roosevelt describe the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor as "a day that will live in infamy...." Infamy means disgrace, dishonor, or great wickedness. What do you think were the various emotions of Americans in the first hours and days after they heard the news of the attack?
2. How do you think young Americans your age reacted to the news of Pearl Harbor? In what ways did the coming of WWII to the United States affect students your age?
3. Most Americans who experienced the Pearl Harbor attack remember to this day where they were when they heard the news. To them it is a shared generational moment. The same can be said of people who experienced President John Kennedy or Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s assassinations. Do you think you have experienced a historical moment that you will always remember? Do you think the September 11 terrorist attacks on the United States will be such a memory?
4. After the attack on Pearl Harbor, life in America changed in many ways. Food and clothing were rationed, some travel was restricted, more men were drafted into the military, and more volunteered for military service. Even entertainment—movies, music, comic books—changed, reflecting wartime moods and subjects. Compare and contrast how life in the United States changed after Pearl Harbor with how it might change after the September 11 attacks. Compare and contrast those changes specifically for students your age.
5. What do you think were the biggest concerns of Americans following the attack on Pearl Harbor? What are your biggest concerns following the September 11 attacks?
6. The U.S. government, seeking internal security, responded to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor by interning 110,000 Japanese Americans in relocation camps across the country for the duration of the war. The U.S. government recently admitted that it had violated those individuals' civil rights and compensated those still living with \$20,000 each. Can the United States today maintain its security while ensuring its citizens their constitutional rights? What are the dangers of overreacting and under reacting to the September 11 attacks?