



# Examining the Attack on Pearl Harbor

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History  
Grades 9-12



## Introduction

In this writing prompt, students will examine one of the most notable military events of the twentieth century, the attack on Pearl Harbor. Students will then construct an argument with supporting evidence on whether President Roosevelt knew about the attack beforehand or not.

## Learning Objectives

Students will:

- Write arguments with sufficient evidence to support a claim. ([CCSS.W.11-12.1](#))
- Conduct research to answer a question. ([CCSS.W.11-12.7](#))

## Materials Needed

- Access to technology (research)
- Paper/electronic tablet/laptop (for composing a writing piece)

## Procedure

The attack on Pearl Harbor is one of the most notable military events of the twentieth century. It has been described as an event that was unknown to military leaders, including the President of the United States. There are some who believe that this attack was not a surprise or a secret.

Did President Roosevelt know about Pearl Harbor? Be sure to use research that supports your views on this topic. You must compose an argumentative essay and cite at least five credible sources.

## Evaluation

Use a rubric of your choice to evaluate the argumentative essays.