

# The threats of nuclear weapons, should we be scared?

## Introduction (80-350 words)

This project explores the impacts of nuclear weapons have had and could potentially cause. I will also explore whether we should be scared that these are a threat to us or if nuclear weapons are most likely a thing of the past and nothing to worry about in our lifetimes. I will explore the long- and short-term impacts of nuclear weapons as well as some global impacts that may come with them. As it will be a magazine article, I will also explore journalism and the techniques used in magazines and newspapers. This will include looking into famous journalists work and the work.

I chose this project topic because for a while now I have wanted to be a journalist and have found writing news to inform or persuade to be quite interesting. I also wanted to learn more about modern warfare, specifically nuclear bombs, as I thought they could be used again for mass destruction, and I wanted to explore that issue.

reasons  
for choice  
257.

The key terms used in this project include journalism which is the act of collecting and distributing information found, through the form of newspapers, magazines, books websites and many more, nuclear fission which is how nuclear energy is created, it involves a huge implosion that splits the nucleus of a radioactive material and is used in nuclear weapons and nuclear fallout which takes place after a nuclear bomb is detonated, leaving radiation and nuclear dust particles embedded in the ground

This project links to my other subjects in that in English we learn about writing articles as well as structural and linguistic techniques that are affective in this sort of writing. In history we recently

learnt about WW2 which ultimately ended with the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945 with the first nuclear bombs made. This will be a good display of what nuclear bombs pose as a threat.

This project links to my future aspirations because I am currently planning on either being a journalist and links to the wider context of gathering information and putting it into a magazine that readers will enjoy and find informative for the target audience of the week.

The objectives of my project are to be able to write a formal, and well written article using the research and knowledge I have gained from various sources to create a good outcome which will be a magazine article about the threats of nuclear weapons for The Week magazine, and whether we should be scared whilst improving my article writing skills.

✓  
✓ Rationale is clear and thoughtful A07.

### Research Review (300-900 words)

(The Week-about us), is a website written by and published by The Week. This is a primary source and is open access to the internet. This source is relevant to my research question in that it gives me lots of information on The Week. From this research, I learnt that The Week is focused on giving people who want to know what is going on in their country all the necessary and relevant information and headlines in one convenient magazine that anybody can subscribe to for £46 every 13 issues. This source helps me place my research question into the wider context of the research area by giving me an insight into how I should go about writing my magazine article as I now have in mind the purpose of The Week and their target audience. The source scores 13/15 using the CRAAP method because it was written in May of 2023 (so within the last year). The source addresses my question and gives me useful information due to it providing me with essential information such as, writing style, target audience and purpose of The Week magazine which is my client.

✓  
A02-  
relevant  
to research

organisation is well-known and read and trusted worldwide. The source is trustworthy in that it is a simple description of The Week magazine which is known for writing factual and non-biased articles. Finally, the purpose of this source is to give readers or students such as me, an insight into what the week intends to do in its magazines and who their target audience is, and just a very overall view on the franchise. Overall, this is a reliable source for academic work because if I am writing a magazine, the target audience and purpose is essential, and this source gives me all of that. (The Week magazine, 2023) ✓

reliability of source - A02.

effective referencing A02.

(AFTER THE BOMB) is an article in Time magazine written by Haruka Sakaguchi. This is a secondary source and is open access on the internet. This source is relevant to my research because it gives me an insight of the social effects of nuclear weapons. From this research, I learnt that even years after the bomb was dropped, Hiroshima survivors are still terribly affected (mentally and physically). This source helps me place my research question into the wider context of the research area by using real people's experiences through interviews for a deeper insight. The source scores 12/15 using the CRAAP method because at no point can I find when it was written or published, however it may be an ongoing project, but is still unclear. The author/organisation is well-known and recognised by the guardian and is very respected in her field of work (photography and interviewing). The source is trustworthy as Haruka Sakaguchi has many years of work experience in this field and Time magazine is known for giving very real and honest information to readers. Finally, the purpose of this source is to give the true and horrible story of how, even after the nuclear bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, life was extremely difficult to stop anything like this happening in the future. Overall, this is a reliable source for academic work because the author is trusted, the publishers are well known and reliable and the full story is given. (Sakaguchi, n.d.)

relevant research context for article

A02.

reliability A02. explored in detail

(10 simple ways to improve your magazine writing skills) is a website written by Laurie Pawlik and published in June 2020. This is a secondary source and is open access. This source is relevant to my research question in that it gives me a good idea of how professional journalists write good magazine articles. From this research, I learnt that journalism is not just about linguistic techniques but also how you think, and go around writing a magazine article. This source helps me place my research question into the wider context of the research area by giving me advice for future exams or other situations if I ever need to write a piece of transactional writing like this. The source scores 11/15 using the CRAAP method because it was written in June of 2020 which is not as recent as it could be however that does not matter hugely as journalism will not have new and changing techniques surrounding it. The source addresses my question and gives me useful information as it will help me edit and write a good quality final piece with the mindset of a journalist. The author well-known and has many years of experience writing blogs and electronic articles as well as having a degree in Education and Psychology along with teaching grade 8 language arts at Rosslyn Academy. The source is trustworthy in that finally, the purpose of this source is to help new journalists or bloggers write and think like a professional as well as to give the basics of magazine writing to the public. Overall, this is a reliable source for academic work because the author has lots of experience in the field, it was published only 4 years ago, and it gives me some good knowledge on how I should go about writing and editing my magazine article. (Pawlik, 2020)

relevant to producing outcome  
AO2.

reliability evaluated  
AO2.

(The Devastating Effects of nuclear weapons) is an article written by Richard Wolfson and Ferenc

Dalnoki and published in March of 2022 by the MIT Press Reader. This is a secondary source and is open. This source is relevant to my research question as it has lots of detail about how we could be affected by nuclear weapons which my article will explore the dangers of. From this research, I learnt about the long and short-term effects of detonating a nuclear weapon such as radiation

AO2 - relevant research

sickness, fallout and the radius of possible destruction. This source helps me place my research question into the wider context of the research area by showing me how much more dangerous nuclear weapons are than other warheads currently. The source scores 14/15 using the CRAAP method because it was written in May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2022 which is under 2 years ago and therefore will have the newest information. The source addresses my question and gives me lots of the useful information I need to write my article in huge amounts of detail and technical terms. The authors as well as the MIT press reader are well-known and trusted to give good information on modern issues applying a good look into them. The source is trustworthy in that it uses many other trusted sources and gives a few of them in the article as well as there being no grammar or spelling mistakes visible. Finally, the purpose of this source is to inform people on how nuclear bombs work and how much damage they could cause if used. Overall, this is a reliable source for academic work because it was published by a very respected and up to date company, it contains huge amounts of detail and uses a wide range of sources therefore it gives me a good understanding with many viewpoints. (Dalnoki, 2022)

useful  
content  
for  
article

Reliability  
evaluate  
effective  
AOZ

(The human toll of a nuclear war) is an article written by Viktor Elias and published in March of 2022 by The Greek Reporter. This is a secondary source and is open access. This source is relevant to my research question in that it shows me how a nuclear weapon could affect the world if used today. From this research, I learnt that if one was used on Ukraine for example, the consequences would be worse than ever seen before. This source helps me place my research question into the wider context of the research area by giving me an insight into the possible outcomes of the war going on in Ukraine involving nuclear weapons. The source scores 11/15 using the CRAAP method because it was written in the last two years and therefore has recent information. The source addresses my question and gives me useful information by showing me the very possible effects of

Relevant  
content  
→ for article  
AOZ

AOZ -  
reliability

nuclear weapons if used. The author is well-known and is a very respected entrepreneur however I could not find anything about his authority in the subject of nuclear weapons. The source is trustworthy in that there are little to no grammar or spelling mistakes, images are labelled, and sources are clearly listed. Finally, the purpose of this source is to inform others on what could be the outcome of the use of nuclear weapons if used today. Overall, this is a mostly reliable source for academic work because the author is well respected, sources are listed and trusted, it was published recently, and it is written to a good quality. (elias, 2022)

Reliable  
AO2.

AO2 - name  
of sources

Range of source types  
AO2.

(The world doesn't need more nuclear weapons) is a Ted Talk given by Erika Gregory in October of 2016 by Erika Gregory. This is a secondary source and is open access. This source is relevant to my research question in that it tells me about the growing threat of nuclear weapons and how they will affect our lives. From this research, I learnt that since the cold war, action has been taken to convert the danger of nuclear weapons into power for cities as well as how our generation can make the biggest difference in this field. This source helps me place my research question into the wider context of the research area by showing me the history of nuclear weapons and how our generation can make the biggest difference. The source scores 13/15 using the CRAAP method because it was written in 2016 which was over 5 years ago, and many breakthroughs have been made since. The source addresses my question and gives me useful information on how nuclear weapons are a growing threat and how that can affect us and how action should be taken. The author is well-known and a trusted expert in the field of nuclear warfare. The source is trustworthy in that Erika Gregory presented it well with lots of formality as well as using many facts. Finally, the purpose of this source is to Inform others about how dangerous and huge the issue of nuclear weapons is becoming and how action can and should be taken. Overall, this is a reliable source for academic work because the author is respected and very good in this field, accuracy and delivery of

Relevant  
context  
AO2.

Reliability  
evaluate  
effective  
AO2.

the TED talk was very good, sources are clear and shown however It was performed over 5 years ago. (Gregory, 2016)

(Migratory Birds, 2020)

#### Task 4 – Evaluation

✓ A04 Review

Whilst undertaking this Project, I have learnt a great deal about the science behind nuclear energy and weapons which I found very interesting, I learnt how to write a good magazine article as well as going back and thoroughly reading through my final piece making any minor adjustments, which was a key part of my piece.

My original aims and objectives, as set out in Section 1 of my Project Proposal Form, were to produce an article for a magazine on the threats of nuclear weapons in today's world as well as improving my writing skills. I believe that I have achieved these aims in that I have created.

Links to aims.

I have learnt a great deal about the research process, in particular how to find trustworthy sources from all over the internet, where to look for good up to date news on science and how to check if a source is good for use.

A04- detailed evaluation of skills learned

There were some limitations to my methodology which included spending too long on research and creating my portfolio, not spending long enough on the actual production of my piece and not spending as much time as I should have to prepare for my oral presentation

✓ Supplemented with oral presentation A04.

With hindsight, I should have finished my research along with portfolio a little while quicker to ensure I spent long enough time on my production, and therefore oral presentation to create an overall better final piece.

realistic  
what do  
different  
A04

I have learnt skills such as how to conduct in-depth research and reading through my work which will help me in the future because I would like to be a journalist, and this is a big part of that as well that reading through work is just a very useful skill to ensure work is completed to a high quality

skills  
A04  
✓

In my oral presentation, I believe that I gave a confident and secure presentation with well-prepared slides and good body language, however I feel I could have done more rehearsing to calm myself down when it came to standing up and speaking in front of my group.

## Bibliography

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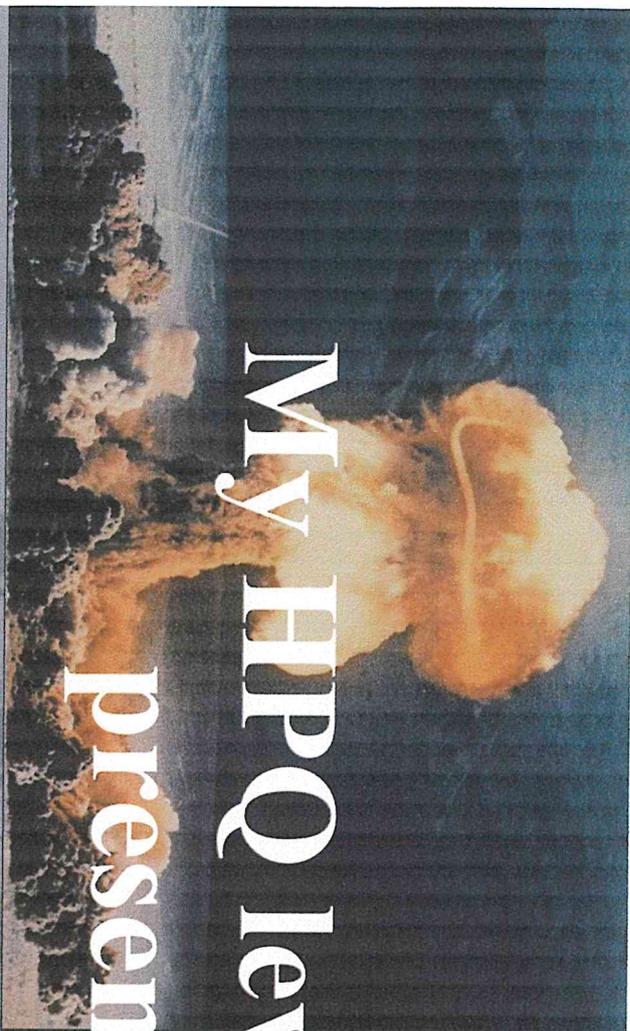
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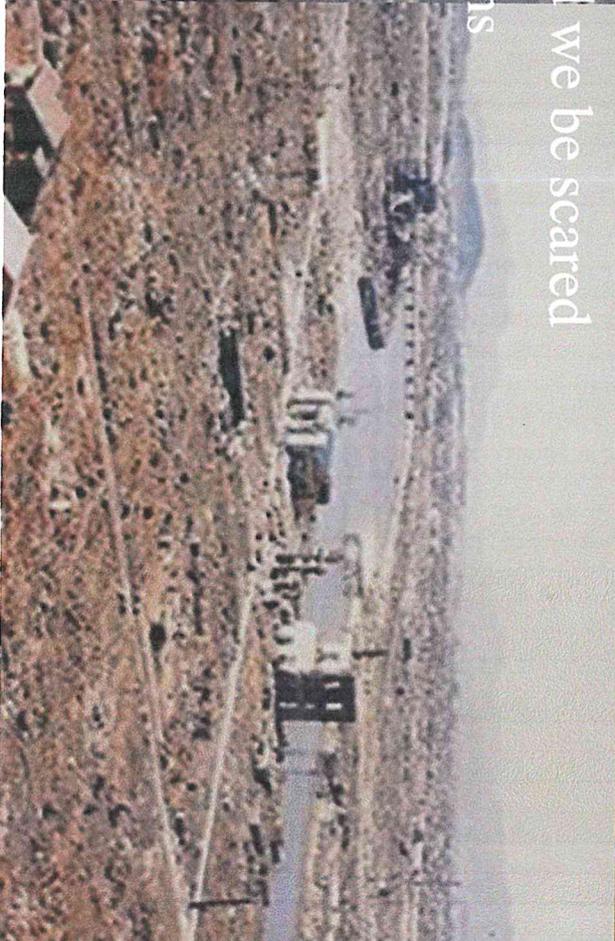
A02.  
clear &  
consistent  
format.  
✓

# My HPQ level 2 project presentation



Nuclear weapons, should we be scared

Elwin Williams





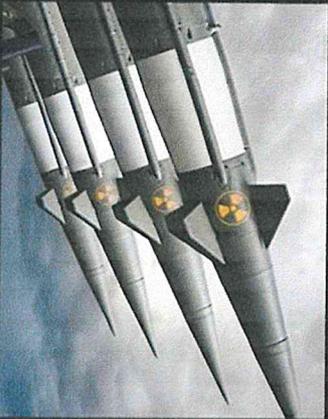
My client for my  
commission

Long- and short-term effects of  
nuclear weapons as well as  
global impacts

## What will my commission involve?

Journalism, writing  
techniques and magazine  
articles to help me with  
my final piece

Should we fear the threat  
of nuclear weapons in  
today's society



## My commission

I will write, edit and create a magazine article on the treats of nuclear weapons in today's world whilst answering the question, **should we be scared?**  
The title will be, "The threats of nuclear weapons: **should we be scared?**"

## Target audience

I will be writing for the adult's version of The week magazine and will aim it at **young adults** that can make a difference in the world who want to know what problems there are in the world.

## My client

I have chosen to write my article for **the week magazine**. The week aims to inform all kinds with their adult's and kid's versions, about problems or affairs going on. The week is known for being unbiased and trustworthy so when writing my article, I will have this in mind

## Why?

I picked this as I would like to be a **journalist** in the future and wanted to know more about nuclear weapons

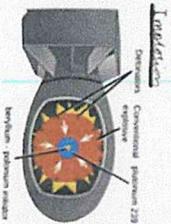
# Beginning research

## NUCLEAR WEAPONS



How do they work?

Nuclear bombs work by using the nuclear energy stored in the atoms of radioactive materials. The energy is triggered from the atoms through a process called nuclear fission. This is where the nucleus of atoms is split into many smaller pieces. This happens either by splitting from secondary explosions or by making nuclear material into the atoms of the weapon. This starts a chain reaction, missing atoms to strike into one another, creating a series of secondary explosions.



Short term effects

As soon as a nuclear weapon is detonated, enormous amounts of radiation, gamma rays, and neutrons are sent out in every direction. It is less than a second later, radiation can reach over a mile from a 10 kiloton explosion. Minutes after the explosion, where the bomb was, there is a hole bigger than the bomb size. A fireball is created and sent out burning anything in its path and landing and winds amounts of energy in the form of a large A light wave whose than the bomb also comes from the fireball, burning anything that comes in its path.

The science behind nukes, Nuclear fission and fusion

How many nuclear weapons in circulation

- Nuclear weapons
- Russia - 5,977
  - United States - 5,244
  - China - 410
  - France - 290
  - United Kingdom - 230
  - Pakistan - 170
  - India - 165
  - Israel - 90
  - North Korea - 40

Long/short term effects

Article on the human toll of nuclear war

Long term effects

The long term effects of nuclear weapons, or fallout, can vary, but the amount of nuclear material that is released to the air or on the ground is determined by the size of the fireball that is created. The more the fireball size, the more the fallout. Nuclear fallout can be in the form of dust, smoke, and other particles that are carried by the wind. These particles can be inhaled or ingested, and they can cause cancer and other health problems. The amount of fallout that is released to the air or on the ground is determined by the size of the fireball that is created. The more the fireball size, the more the fallout. Nuclear fallout can be in the form of dust, smoke, and other particles that are carried by the wind. These particles can be inhaled or ingested, and they can cause cancer and other health problems.



The human toll of nuclear war

A possible nuclear war between the US and Russia would have enormous implications for Europe and beyond. A nuclear war would result in a nuclear winter, which would lead to a global famine. The amount of nuclear material that is released to the air or on the ground is determined by the size of the fireball that is created. The more the fireball size, the more the fallout. Nuclear fallout can be in the form of dust, smoke, and other particles that are carried by the wind. These particles can be inhaled or ingested, and they can cause cancer and other health problems. The amount of fallout that is released to the air or on the ground is determined by the size of the fireball that is created. The more the fireball size, the more the fallout. Nuclear fallout can be in the form of dust, smoke, and other particles that are carried by the wind. These particles can be inhaled or ingested, and they can cause cancer and other health problems.

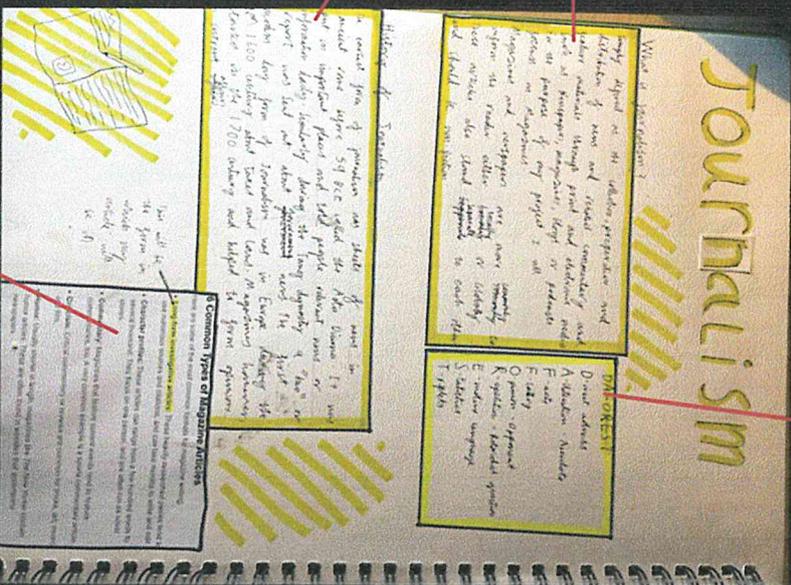


World medical researchers have estimated that a nuclear war between the US and Russia would result in a global famine. The amount of nuclear material that is released to the air or on the ground is determined by the size of the fireball that is created. The more the fireball size, the more the fallout. Nuclear fallout can be in the form of dust, smoke, and other particles that are carried by the wind. These particles can be inhaled or ingested, and they can cause cancer and other health problems. The amount of fallout that is released to the air or on the ground is determined by the size of the fireball that is created. The more the fireball size, the more the fallout. Nuclear fallout can be in the form of dust, smoke, and other particles that are carried by the wind. These particles can be inhaled or ingested, and they can cause cancer and other health problems.

# Journalism, writing techniques and magazines

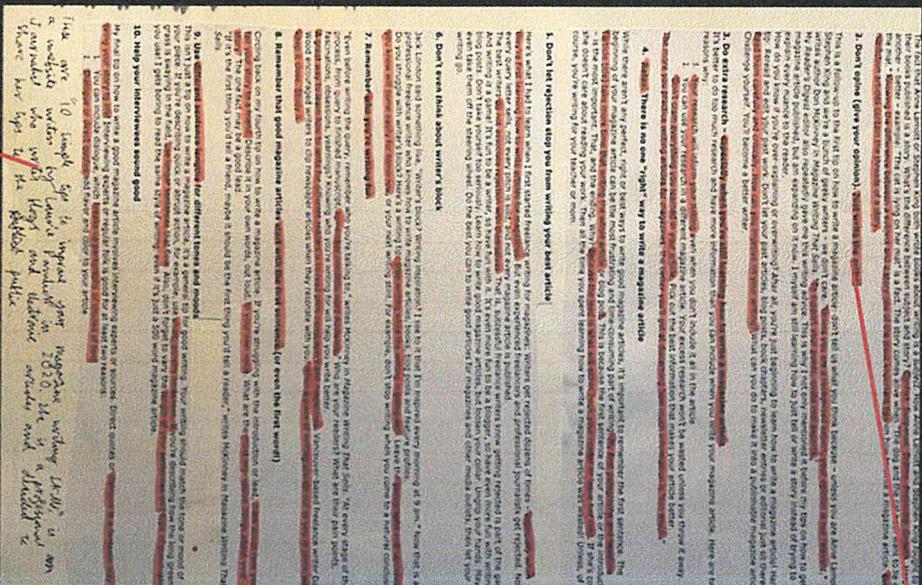
Useful techniques for magazine writing

What is Journalism?  
Definition and where it is used



What type of article will mine be

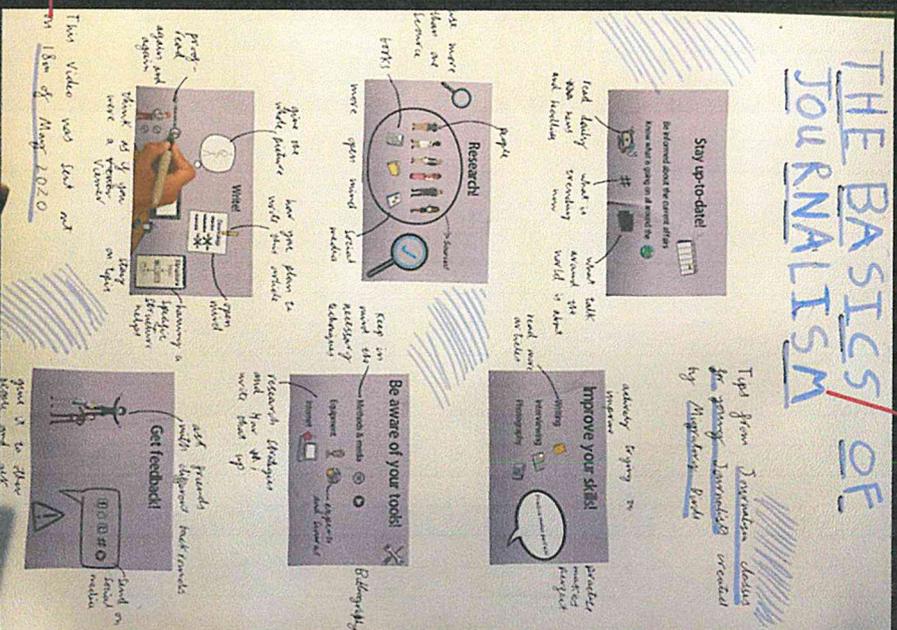
A website created by Laurie Pawlik called "10 simple ways to improve your magazine writing skills"



Released 18th May 2020

I have learnt how to think when writing and editing

A video I found from migratory birds on the basic techniques of journalism



This video was last and in issue of May 2020

# methodology

## Planning my article

Introduction

- Catch reader's attention
- Main points

Nuclear energy

- Fusion
- How Nuclear Weapons work
- Risks

What happens when a bomb is detonated?

- Initial steps
- Fission of fuel, out
- Nuclear fallout

Effects of Hydrogen

- Deaths and casualties
- Indians with survivors
- Long-term effects

Nuclear weapons today

- How many in circulation
- Alliances with Nuclear weapons
- Nuclear War possibility

Conclusion

- Should we be worried?
- What can we do?

## Possible layouts

## Techniques to keep in mind when writing my piece

Include the reader

**DAFOREST**

- D - direct address
- A - Anecdotes
- E - acts
- E - literary
- O - opinion
- R - repetition - rhetorical questions
- E - emotive language
- S - statistics
- T - trip/b

Not so much needed in my article

Could be used in my conclusion



# My Final Piece

20 news

## Talking points

Introduction to catch readers attention

I'm sure that many of you reading this have heard of some sort of nuclear weapon and their destructive power, whilst you may have seen the consequences of August 1945 in Hiroshima, that was nearly 80 years ago and unfortunately, nuclear weapons have come a long way since.

First of all, the word nuclear comes from the central part of the atom, the nucleus. Nuclear energy is created when it is split into many smaller fragments from a huge implosion. This process is known as nuclear fission and can either power whole cities or blow them to smithereens.

Nuclear weapons harness the pure unpredictability of this process to its full potential in one of two ways. Either a large "bullet" of a nuclear substance can be fired down a tube inside a bomb into a target causing implosion and therefore fission to take place, or by placing a ball of radioactive material inside of huge amounts of powerful conventional explosives to be detonated. Both methods are highly effective and give off exponential amounts of nuclear energy as well as radiation and heat, serving their destructive purpose arguably too well.

As soon as the explosives inside of a nuclear bomb are detonated, the nuclei (plural for nucleus) are split into fragments and the initial wave of gamma rays and nuclear energy is released beginning a chain reaction that causes fission in millions of other atoms nearby. This all happens in less than a second. In an even shorter amount of time than this, the direct point at which the bomb once was, is now hotter than the sun's core. A raging fireball expands at close to 200 miles per hour.

burning anything in its path as well as laying down particles of nuclear material creating what we know as "nuclear fallout". This leaves the soil radioactive, water undrinkable and land uninhabitable. If the weapon was detonated in the air, radiation from as little as a 10-kiloton nuclear explosion can reach a mile in microseconds killing anyone close enough to it. Furthermore, a light more intense than the sun is produced, blinding anyone who looks at it.

The first ever nuclear bomb used on people was in August of 1945 when the bomb, "Little Boy" was dropped on Hiroshima killing 140,000 people total out of 340,000 (nearly 50% of their population). Almost all survivors and they experienced huge radiation sickness including intense vomiting, bloody gums and many more. America then dropped the bomb known as "Fat Man" on Nagasaki killing around 74,000. In Hiroshima, only 55 buildings were left standing meaning nearly every person that survived had nearly nowhere to call their own.

### The threats of nuclear weapons: should we be scared?



than ever seen. If two nuclear bombs from over 80 years ago could bring a country to its knees then that begs the question, what could they do if used today?

The bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki showed the sheer power of nuclear weapons, not a simple nuclear weapon has been used on people since. Countries all over the world have access to nuclear weapons, Russia having the most with nearly 6,000, the USA having 5,244. China with less at 410 and France with 290. Many of these nuclear bombs have the power of 140 kilotons and are pointed directly at any major city, ready to fire if ordered to. Russia has the potential to destroy up to 80% of NYC's population with one. The consequences would be immense, stretching as far as 25 miles, and for Ukraine to recover would be nearly impossible.

Whilst it is completely rational to fear the possible destruction that comes with the use of nuclear weapons, many countries have intelligence in this field and are aware that the risk of de-stabilisation and death heavily outweighs the rewards, of which there are [links as well as CSISO and many more](https://www.csis.org/analysis/why-nuclear-weapons-remain), if one nuclear weapon was dropped either leading to an all-out nuclear war involving the exchange of tens of nuclear warheads. The effects shown earlier display how this could affect the lives of so many and, how the world as we know it could be changed forever.

As we have very clearly seen, nuclear bombs are one of the biggest threats in today's society and can start whole world wars if used in incorrectly. Whilst Countries use them more as a symbol of power, experts say the threat of a possible nuclear war is very much there and could result in the end of humanity. This may be a lot to bear but a change can (and should) be made. In the mid of the cold war when nuclear bombs were the largest threat. How? Kennedy set a vision to turn nuclear bombs into the driving force of America and Russia known as "negotiation to engagement". Shortly before this could be put into action, he was assassinated however that does not mean that we should sit and fear the threat nuclear weapons, we need to make a change and take over them before they take over us.

Effects of the Hiroshima bombing 1945

In an interview with survivors, some as far as 3.4 kilometres away from the hypocentre, said they suffered with diarrhoea and a high fever, as well as "hair falling out and dark spots forming on skin." Emilio Okada was still a child at the time and said "young children had to fend for themselves. They stole to get by and were taken in by the wrong adults."

Nuclear weapons in today's world

Quote from Ronald Reagan

Conclusion answering the question and giving solutions

# evaluation

## What have I learnt?

- **nuclear weapons** and how they can affect us
- How to produce a good **magazine** article
- How to **research** in depth, effectively



## What could have been improved?

- More **in depth research** on nuclear weapons in today's world
- Beginning my final piece earlier
- Having a **clearer vision** of the project earlier

## Have I met my original target?

My original target was to "write an article for a magazine exploring the economic or global impacts that **nuclear weapons** have. I would also like to persuade **action** to be taken on the ever-growing threat of nuclear war."

I believe that I have well **met this vision** in my article and have produced a piece I am overall happy with.

## My commission

I will write, edit and create a magazine article on the trends of nuclear weapons in today's world while answering the question, **Should we be scared?**

The title will be, **The threats of nuclear weapons should we be scared?**

## Target audience

I will be writing for the adult's version of The week magazine and will aim it at **18-30 year olds** that can make a difference in the world who want to know what problems there are in the world.

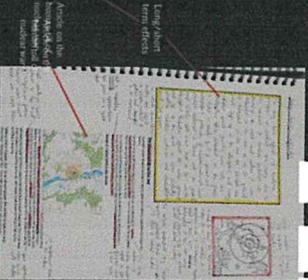
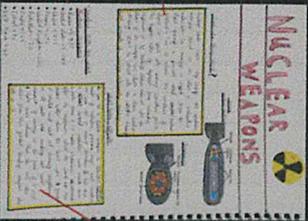
## My client

I have chosen to write my article for **18-30 year olds**. The week aims to inform all kinds with their adult's and each version about problems or affairs going on. The week is known for being unbiased and trustworthy so when writing my article, I will have this in mind.

## Why?

I picked this as I would like to be a **journalist** in the future and wanted to know more about nuclear weapons.

## Beginning research



# Any questions?

## THE WEEK

My client for my commission

What will my commission involve?



Large and short-term effects of nuclear weapons as well as global impacts

Should we fear the threat of nuclear weapons in today's society

Journalism writing techniques to help me write my final piece



What have I learned and how they can affect the world?  
How to produce a good article  
How to research to begin effectively



## My Final Piece

How to research to begin effectively  
How to produce a good article  
How to research to begin effectively



Have I met my original target?  
My original target was to 'write an article for a magazine exploring the economic or global impacts that have led to the development of nuclear weapons' to be taken on the ever-growing threat of nuclear war. I believe that I have met my target in my article and have produced a piece I am overall happy with.

## Journalism, writing techniques and magazines

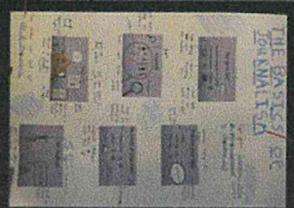


What is journalism? Definition and what it is used for.

What is the purpose of journalism? How to write a good article.



A website created by Journalists that provides information on journalism writing skills.



I have found how to write a good article and how to write a good article.

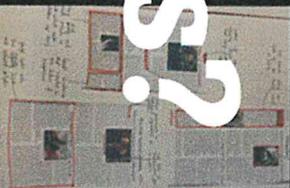
A website I found from the internet that provides information on journalism writing skills.

## methodology

### Planning my article



### Possible layouts



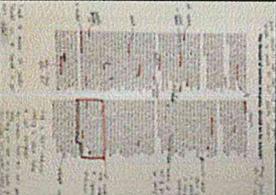
Remember to keep in mind when writing my piece



Include the header  
Note to be included in my article  
Could be used in my commission

## Writing and editing my piece

Draft 1



Draft 2



## Adjusting layout

