

Process Paper

**John Hersey's "Hiroshima":
An Atomic Reconstruction of Journalism**

Tia Trinh, Samantha Phan, and Clara Carroll

Senior Division

Group Website

Website: 1199 Student Composed Words

Process Paper: 498 Words

<https://site.nhd.org/00944256>

In a world where communication is key, and how one uses words to convey a message is crucial to spreading news, we looked into one of the oldest, yet most important methods of communication that is still utilized today: journalism. We researched the changes of journalism before we settled on John Hersey's monumental essay, "Hiroshima," which tells the story of survivors of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945, through a unique style of narrative like journalistic writing.

Our process began with investigating sources that discussed and gave a brief overview of who John Hersey was and how he was an influential figure in the journalism community. This would ensure that there were ample sources to be used in the research and creation of this project. In addition to online research, we had the opportunity to use school textbooks from our classes, all of which had an in depth analysis of Japan's move to global war, including the aftermath of the atomic bombs and how they began to influence coverage of nuclear warfare. Following this initial research, we began to read articles and interviews of people who covered the same topics and were inspired by Hersey's work. By using primary and secondary sources, we were able to create a narrative of what Hersey had done, as well as analyze its effects and reflect upon their significance in this modern era.

We chose to create a website because we believed that a website would be the medium that would reach a greater audience. With the sudden changes in society and the manner in which we are forced to adapt, websites are utilized every day. In addition, journalism is quickly transforming from paper newspapers to online editorial sites. Therefore, we thought the topic of Hersey's journalism would fit best in a medium where his work would be found if it were published today. Furthermore, we chose to design our website with "Hiroshima" in mind. The simple colors of black, red, and grey reflect the horror of the bombing, a key aspect that Hersey conveys in his article. The red symbolizes the bloodshed and the thousands of lives lost, while black and grey represent the dark situation those who survived were forced into as well as the bleak landscape the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki became. Additionally, we chose to keep the layout of our website simple and able to be easily understood, as Hersey did in "Hiroshima." Hersey was very straightforward yet effective in his language, a quality that we also strived for in our website.

The theme of "Communication in History" goes hand in hand with this project as John Hersey's method of journalistic writing directly connects with how history was communicated to

the world following the aftermath of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. His narrative-like journalism has inspired many to pursue a unique path of “New Journalism” in which the writing retains elements of story, while simultaneously effectively communicating the events with accurate and precise detail.