

## **Project Brief:**

(5 min + -)

Your task for this project is to create an interesting, informative, and engaging short film that tells the story of some aspect of the Hanford Manhattan Project story from the perspectives of those involved or affected.

Working in teams, your film must use the historical thinking concept of historical perspectives to frame your story. Historical perspective means understanding the social, cultural, intellectual, and emotional settings that shaped people's lives and actions in the past. Each team will select five people, places, and/or events that elucidate the perspectives of the men and women that produced the raw materials for the world's first atomic weapons.

Treatment: A written summary of your video. This document should reflect the research you have undertaken and contain citations to sources used. There should be a paragraph for the introduction, conclusion, and a paragraph each for the five points your video is making.

Video Storyboard: This is a ROUGH cut of your video that you will complete BEFORE the field school. This is your chance to edit together your story using placeholders for photographs, interviews, and B roll video that will eventually be in your final product. Expect to make changes and adapt your video storyboard during the field study, but each team MUST screen a completed rough cut prior to departing for Hanford.

Finished Product: Your finished product will be a polished video that has received multiple rounds of critique and shows evidence of substantial revision. Your finished movies will be shared back to our Hanford contacts.

## **Topic: Secrecy**

1. Creating the cities (Building codes/bus routes)
2. While getting hired an FBI study would be completed on you to make sure you weren't apart of the axis powers
3. Atomic spies from other countries. (Krause Fuchs)
4. Reported leaks
5. Telling the world

## **Research**

### **1: Creating the Cities: (Ryan)**

The 3 main secret cities made for atomic bomb creation were Oak Ridge, Los Alamos, and Hanford. Before the start of work on the bomb there was little to nothing in these places. Anyone who did live there would've been removed by the government.

Even though these cities were just made for the workers to feel at home while they worked on the bomb, there was lots of segregation to do with housing. The original plans for the cities included a “negro village” that would provide similar housing to the African American residents, just farther away from the work sites. However with the rapid growth of the Manhattan Project this idea was thrown out pretty quick. What ended up happening to the African Americans was, they would be housed in “hutments”. Meaning the African American residents who were doing the exact same work as everybody else, were living in what could almost be described as a tent.

## **2: FBI Studies: (Ryan)**

Every worker at the Manhattan Project went through a rigorous background check done by the FBI to ensure your loyalty to the United States and that you’d had no criminal history. This study generally took several weeks to complete as the Government wanted 100% certainty that every worker could keep the secret they were creating. The FBI would contact close relatives or previous employers to clarify and suspicions that could have come up throughout the investigation.

On Enrico Fermi’s initial background check by the FBI, it was stated that “employment of this person on secret work is not recommended.”

Later when Enrico Fermi was studied by the FBI in collaboration with the Navy, Fermi was deemed to have his loyalties with the United States rather than the Italians. This would be the case as long as the fascist party was in control of Italy.

Even after this study they still weren’t 100% sure about Fermi. They didn’t want to hire him just yet even though they knew he was the most knowledgeable person in the world about this subject.

Enrico Fermi was eventually hired and had a great impact on the result of the project.

## **3: Spies: (Mimi)**

Many of the people that participated in the project were spies from other countries that were also trying to be the first to create the atomic bomb. Many people in the general public never knew this but for the military world it was well-known.

Germany implemented a special team of spies who made several attempts to steal technology and research from The Manhattan Project. Not only did they fail at infiltrating the project they also were discovered very quickly. After that people from Canada, The UK and America would steal documents and pass them on to soviet spies. From that point on, those people were known as the atomic spies.

There were many undercover spies from the Soviet Union who were actually working on the atomic bomb in Los Alamos. The most well known spies being: Klaus Fuchs, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, David Greenglass, Theodore Hall, and Lona and Morris Cohen. Among them was Klaus Fuchs, a German theoretical physicist most well known for "changing atomic history" and many significant theoretical calculations for the first nuclear weapons and models of the hydrogen bomb. While creating these advances for America he was passing important documents and photos to the Soviet Union. He was later convicted and in 1950 he served 9 years in prison.

#### **4:Reported Leaks: (Hannah)**

"Since September 1943, investigations were conducted of more than 1,500 'loose talk' or leakage of information cases and corrective action was taken in more than 1,200 violations of procedures for handling classified material.... Complete security of information could be achieved only by following all leaks to their source."

An employee at Oak Ridge wrote a letter to her uncle, telling him the war would be over quickly, when "the product" being produced was finally used. Unfortunately, she dropped the letter on a bus prior to mailing it. She admitted to intelligence agents that, in her position as a confidential secretary, she had "acquired considerable information about the work of the project, but had been very foolish to reveal any of the information to her uncle." After making such a mistake she was fired.

The worst leaking violation came in March 1944. John Raper, a reporter for the Cleveland Press, while on vacation in New Mexico, somehow stumbled upon one of the biggest, most secret stories of the day. His article from the Cleveland Press, Forbidden City gave indication to spies that something of importance was going on in Santa Fe. The article also states, "It is the work of Prof. Oppenheimer and the hundreds of men and women in his laboratories and shops that makes Los Alamos such a carefully guarded city."

General Groves now had to take action to make sure no more of the secret would be let out. When he realized Time magazine was going to write a follow-up regarding West Coast atom smashing work, the Office of Censorship stopped them. Then he had the reporter investigated and interviewed. For awhile he thought about getting John Raper drafted but decided against it once he learned he was in his 60s.

#### **5:Telling the World: (Mimi/Hannah)**

The atomic bombing of Japan in early August 1945 suddenly put the Manhattan Project into the center of the public eye. Manhattan Project officials, however, had no intent to release what they viewed as essential military secrets.

### **Video Links:**

[https://www.smithsonianmag.com/videos/category/history/rare-home-movies-of-the-secret-manhattan-pro\\_1/](https://www.smithsonianmag.com/videos/category/history/rare-home-movies-of-the-secret-manhattan-pro_1/)

### **Information Link:**

<https://www.listland.com/top-10-cool-facts-about-the-manhattan-project/>

<https://www.atomicheritage.org/history/security-and-secrecy>

<https://io9.gizmodo.com/secrets-of-the-manhattan-project-were-leaked-a-staggeri-1626524763>

<http://blog.nuclearsecrecy.com/2013/09/20/worst-manhattan-project-leaks/>

<https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/how-to-build-secret-nuclear-city>

[https://www.osti.gov/opennet/manhattan-project-history/Events/1945-present/public\\_reaction.htm](https://www.osti.gov/opennet/manhattan-project-history/Events/1945-present/public_reaction.htm)

[https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atomic\\_spies](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atomic_spies)

### **Treatment:**

Intro:

Title (Hi5story in 5)6

The Manhattan project made the greatest technological advancement in WWII. Many countries were competing in the race to be the first to create this atomic bomb. With the US in the lead they took every precaution necessary to make sure that they stay that way.

Another title: ( The Secret City of the Manhattan Project )

#### 1. The Cities

For the Manhattan Project to work they needed to be cities in which the atomic bomb would be built in. Workers also needed a place to live and be comfortable. So in the early 1940s the United States created the "secret cities". The most known secret cities are Oak Ridge, Los Alamos, and Hanford. None of these cities existed until the start of the Manhattan Project.

The cities were built by SOM a popular architectural firm in the US, and were designed to be a friendly neighborhood where all the scientists and their families would feel at home. However being the 1940s there was lots of racism in the creation of these cities. SOM's original plan included what would be known as a "negro village" in each city which would house all of the African Americans. These negro villages would be the same style of housing as everywhere else but on the east side of town meaning they would be much farther away from the work sites. However with the rapid growth of the Manhattan Project, this idea didn't last long and all of the African American scientists were forced to live in "hutments" a building not much different from a tent.

These secret cities were very revolutionary in the architectural world. They had a big impact in the future of city planning as these cities showed how you could fit lots of residential on the outskirts of a city, creating the more modern day suburbs. So even the city planning of this huge project in the 1940s has an impact on us today.

## 2. FBI

The Manhattan Project needed secrecy for the whole thing to work, so they didn't want to hire just anyone who might reveal what they were working on. To make sure this wouldn't happen the US government required all new workers to go through an intense background check by the FBI. Thanks to this many people who could've been spies were not hired, but who knows what people the Manhattan Project missed out on. There's evidence that the project definitely could've missed out on some really incredible people, because back when Enrico Fermi was applying for a job his initial FBI report stated that "employment of this person on secret work is not recommended."

After a second check Enrico Fermi was confirmed loyal to the United States, and we all know what a big impact that had on the end result of the Manhattan Project. Due to this tough process we are all left wondering who was sent home by the FBI that the US could've worked with on the most secretive project in history.

## 3. Spies

Many of the people that participated in the project were spies from other countries that were also trying to be the first to create the atomic bomb. Many people in the general public never knew this but for the military world it was well-known.

Germany implemented a special team of spies who made several attempts to steal technology and research from The Manhattan Project. Not only did they fail at infiltrating the project they also were discovered very quickly. After that people from Canada, The UK and America would

steal documents and pass them on to soviet spies. From that point on, those people were known as the atomic spies.

There were many undercover spies from the Soviet Union who were actually working on the atomic bomb in los Alamos. The most well known spies being: Klaus Fuchs, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, David Greenglass, Theodore Hall, and Lona and Morris Cohen. Among them was Klaus Fuchs, a German theoretical physicist most well known for "changing atomic history" and many significant theoretical calculations for the first nuclear weapons and models of the hydrogen bomb. While creating these advances for America he was passing important documents and photos to the Soviet Union. He was later convicted and in 1950 he served 9 years in prison. Many atomic spies were never caught and many names were never revealed meaning that to this day there are still secrets to be uncovered.

#### 4. Loose talk

The problem with having a big secret is the fear of it getting out. Because the Manhattan project was so important, many people wanted to share with their families and even more people wanted the inside scoop on what was going on.

Since September 1943, investigations were conducted of more than 1,500 'loose talk' or leakage of information cases and corrective action was taken in more than 1,200 violations of procedures for handling classified materials

If anyone spilled information with family or friends they would be fired immediately.

One case of this was when an employee at Oak Ridge wrote a letter to her uncle, telling him the war would be over quickly, when "the product" being produced was finally used. Unfortunately, she dropped the letter on a bus prior to mailing it. Even though she admitted that as a confidential secretary, had been very foolish to reveal any of the information to her uncle she was fired

The worst leaking violation came in March 1944. John Raper, a reporter for the Cleveland Press, somehow stumbled upon one of the biggest, most secret stories of the day. He wrote an article about thus, Forbidden City but what he didn't realize is that he gave significant indication to spies that something of importance was going on in Santa Fe. The article also states, "It is the work of Prof. Oppenheimer and the hundreds of men and women in his laboratories and shops that makes Los Alamos such a carefully guarded city." To any spy thinking about a nuclear weapon this would definitely spark interest.

Now that the public was buzzing about this article General groves had to take action. Once he realized Time magazine was going to write a follow-up regarding the West Coast atom smashing work, he had the Office of Censorship stop them. Then General Groves had the

reporter investigated and interviewed. For awhile he thought about getting John Raper drafted but decided against it once he learned he was in his 60s and wouldn't be much use.

Because the government was so careful to not let there project be completely revealed all the rumors that were going around disappeared. Until everything was out and the bombs were dropped.

## 5. Telling the world

The atomic bombing of Japan in early August 1945 suddenly put the Manhattan Project into the center of the public eye. Manhattan Project officials, however, had no intent to release what they viewed as essential military secrets. In early 1944 officials began a public relations program in anticipation of when they would have to announce the news to the world. Responsibility for preparation of press releases fell upon General Leslie Groves. Knowing he would need for professional guidance, Groves approached William Laurence, the well-known science reporter for the New York Times. Release of the prepared statements was carefully controlled and managed for after Hiroshima. Sixteen hours after the bombing, the White House released a statement by President Harry S. Truman.

(Insert Truman's speech)

After the Nagasaki bombing, the War Department released the 182-page account, which became known as the Smyth Report. The report was filled with information and Groves clearly stated that "request for additional information will be subject to severe penalties under the Espionage Act."

Letting only some of the information covered the truth of all of the destruction, until on August 21, 1946 issue of The New Yorker magazine was devoted to stories of the devastation of Hiroshima.

Conclusion...

To this day people are still attempting to analyze the project and un-discover the underlying secrets. With the amount of money, space, time and people it took to create this weapon we can only imagine the precautions they had to take when lcreating this weapon. Regardless, The Manhattan Project will go down in history as one of the worlds deadliest secrets.

Concluding slide card....

**Story spine-**

Once upon a time... The American government was hiding a big secret in a very unlikely location.

Everyday... in Hanford they secretly worked on developing the atomic bomb without letting anyone in the outside world know

Because of that... spies from other countries would try to find the secret city

Because of that... They hired the FBI to protect the secrets of the project in Hanford.

Because of that... They made sure no one got their information or spilled it.

Until finally... they dropped the bomb and told the world.

**Script- If we want to aim for a 5 minute script, the average reading speed is 130 words per minute. So basically don't exceed 130 words per paragraph.**

**Intro (recorded at Hanford):**

**Thesis:**

**Not only was Hanford an unexpected location but it was also the perfect place to harbour America's deadliest secrets. To keep the secrets of the Manhattan Project, they did daily background checks on every worker, kept a close eye on who was on their side and who wasn't, and fired anyone who shared information. This is how America ended the war.**

As WWII was coming to an end it wasn't looking good for the allies, but what nobody knew was that the American government was hiding a big secret in a very unlikely location. With multiple countries competing in the race to create weapons of mass destruction, America secretly worked on developing their own atomic bomb in Hanford. For this project to stay a secret they had to do the unthinkable to keep it that way.

**1.Creating the city's (specifically Hanford):**

The decision to create the atomic bomb in Hanford was not random. The site-selection criteria was so specific that when Matthias looked around and saw that the area was perfect in almost every respect, he told General Groves "that he saw no reason to look elsewhere".

Once the decision was final the army condemned about 3,000 tracts of land held by roughly 2,000 individuals and only gave occupants only thirty days to leave.

Interview?

The plutonium-producing facility of the Manhattan Project now existed in a place other than the imagination.

(Interview: giving explanation/describing what the community felt and looked like)



None of the local residents knew what the army was doing at Hanford, but it was no secret that the something big was going on there.

## **2. Spies:**

There were many undercover spies from the Soviet Union who were actually working on the atomic bomb in Los Alamos. The most well known spies being: Klaus Fuchs, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, David Greenglass, Theodore Hall, and Lona and Morris Cohen.

Klaus Fuchs was a German theoretical physicist most well known for “changing atomic history” and many significant theoretical calculations for the first nuclear weapons and models of the hydrogen bomb. While creating these advances for America he was passing important documents and photos to the Soviet Union. He was later convicted and in 1950 he served 9 years in prison. Many atomic spies were never caught and many names were never revealed meaning that to this day there are still secrets to be uncovered.

## **3. The FBI**

Once the secret city of Hanford was developed they needed to hire as many people as possible to do a vast range of jobs. They couldn't hire just anybody though. The FBI had to interrogate and do background checks on every single person who walked through the gates of Hanford.

(Interview, Hopefully can get them to list questions they asked, and the security at Hanford)

The standards the employees had to reach were very high. Even Enrico Fermi's (a scientist who went on to make great advances in the atomic world) initial FBI report stated that “employment of this person on secret work is not recommended.” Due to this tough process we are all left wondering who was sent home by the FBI that the US could've worked with on the most secretive project in history.

## **4. Loose talk:**

The problem with having a big secret is the fear of it getting out. Since September 1943, investigations were conducted of more than 1,500 'loose talk' or leakage of information cases and corrective action was taken in more than 1,200 violations of procedures for handling classified materials.

(Interview, hopefully can get them to tell story and things they did and said to keep project a secret)

Because the government was so careful with the information they handled, most rumours surrounding the project would disappear very quickly. Until they dropped the bomb and all the projects secrets were out.

## **5. Telling the world:**

The atomic bombing of Japan in early August 1945 suddenly put the Manhattan Project into the center of the public eye. Manhattan Project officials, however, had no intent to release what they viewed as essential military secrets. Responsibility for preparation of press releases fell upon General Leslie Groves and just sixteen hours after the bombing, the White House released a statement by President Harry S. Truman.

(Insert Truman's speech)

The employees working at Hanford who had been following orders and doing their part to end the war finally understood what that really meant. Most were very proud of the work they had done and felt a sense of accomplishment and pride towards their country.

(Interview, get opinions and stories)

## **Conclusion (recorded at Hanford):**

To this day people are still attempting to analyze the project and un-discover the underlying secrets. With the amount of money, space, time and people it took to create this weapon we can only imagine the precautions they had to take while creating this weapon. Regardless, The Manhattan Project will go down in history as one of the worlds deadliest secrets.

## **Interview questions:**

*Intro questions:*

*-can we record you?*

*-What's your name and how do you spell it?*

*-What was your occupation?*

*- what is your opinion on the Manhattan project and the atomic bomb*

Questions at Hanford:

Creating cities:

-Can you describe to us what it felt and looked like?

- how much did you know about the project and what was being built there?

-

Spies:

-Was there any talk about fellow workers being spies, why did the government keep this from you?

FBI:

-What was the security like at Hanford?

-Do you remember what a type of questions they would ask you before you began working at the site?

Loose talk:

-What type of precautions did you have to take when working at the site, to keep everything a secret?

-Did you have to lie to your family or friends about what you were working on?

- did you know someone that was caught spilling the beans, what actions was taken upon them?

Telling the world:

-Do you remember what it was like and what you felt like when you realized what you were working on?

- in Truman's speech he states that the atomic bomb was a great technology advancement and Americans should be proud. What is your opinion on this?