I. Dropping the atomic bomb on Japan
   A. Truman’s decision
   B. Controversial decision
   C. Thesis: Truman’s decision to drop the atomic bomb was the best decision for United States.
II. History of bomb leading to Truman’s need to decide
   A. Newly developed atomic bomb
      1. Splitting the atom
      2. Discovered by Germans
   B. Fear of its misuse by others
      1. Fear of Nazi use
      2. U.S. preparation for use
   C. Struggle to bring war with Japan to an end
III. Dropping of bomb’s result of ending the war more quickly
   A. Japanese resistance to surrender
      1. Tokyo’s bombing lack of lasting effect
      2. Choosing Hiroshima for next target
   B. Effectiveness of bomb
      1. Devastation in Hiroshima
      2. Statistical evidence
      3. Surrender of Japan
IV. Bomb’s effect on keeping U.S. position strong in the world
   A. Tension with Soviet Union
      1. Soviet plans to enter war
      2. U.S. choice not to threaten Soviets
      3. U.S. possession of bomb as threat to others
   B. “Nuclear Umbrella” in Western Europe
      1. U.S. ownership of bomb and effect on other countries
      2. Reliance of others on U.S. for protection
V. Less loss of lives with dropping of bomb
   A. Statistics
      1. American casualties in Japan
      2. Numbers of Japanese affected
   B. Projected U.S. lives saved by dropping bomb

VI. Counterargument: Japan on verge of surrender anyway
   A. Unnecessary loss of life in Hiroshima
   B. Rebuttal
      1. No surrender discussed even after devastation of Hiroshima
      2. Divided feelings on surrender among leadership in Japan

VII. Conclusion
   A. Thesis restatement: Truman’s decision to drop the atomic bomb was the most effective decision.
   B. Quicker end to war
   C. U.S. status as world power
   D. Pressure on Japan
   E. Future of bomb in our nation and world