

**Handout**

# Justice after the Nanjing Atrocities

## Anticipation Guide

The statements below represent some of the main issues that the Allies faced as they tried to figure out how to achieve justice after World War II in East Asia and the Nanjing atrocities. Read each statement in the left column. Decide if you strongly agree (SA), agree (A), disagree (D), or strongly disagree (SD) with it. Circle your response and provide a one- to two-sentence explanation of your opinion (on separate paper if needed).

Statement	Your Opinion	How did the Tokyo trials address this issue?
1. It is possible to achieve justice for the crimes committed during the Nanjing atrocities.	SA A D SD Explain:	
2. The victors in a war have the right to punish the defeated countries however they wish.	SA A D SD Explain:	
3. Bringing perpetrators to justice in courts is an effective way to prevent future crimes.	SA A D SD Explain:	

<p>4. Since each country has its own laws, citizens should be brought to trial by the courts of their own country. It is unfair for some nations, or the international community, to impose their laws on citizens of other nations.</p>	<p>SA A D SD</p> <p>Explain:</p>	
<p>5. Bystanders allowed the Nanjing atrocities to happen. If more people had stood up rather than looking the other way, many lives could have been saved. The bystanders should be punished along with the perpetrators.</p>	<p>SA A D SD</p> <p>Explain:</p>	
<p>6. The only people responsible for the atrocities in Nanjing were the Japanese troops themselves. Japanese leaders did not order their troops to commit atrocities and therefore should not be held responsible.</p>	<p>SA A D SD</p> <p>Explain:</p>	

<p>7. The political priorities of nations, including the desire to stabilize and rebuild a country after devastating war, should sometimes override holding individuals accountable for war crimes.</p>	<p>SA A D SD</p> <p>Explain:</p>	
<p>8. Trials are not enough to bring about justice and repair a society after atrocities like what happened in Nanjing.</p>	<p>SA A D SD</p> <p>Explain:</p>	