

Day of Infamy Artifact Reading Guide—HS

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt prepared to give a monumental address to Congress and the American people on December 8, 1941 describing the attack on Pearl Harbor and asking Congress for a declaration of war against Japan. He knew that this speech would be one of the most important in American history. Therefore, his word choice was of great importance. Using the draft copy of FDR’s “Day of Infamy” address, evaluate his edits and word choice for meaning, tone, and clarity. From this document, choose any 3 of FDR’s edits.

FDR’s edit on the draft of the document. Example: Changed “world history” to “infamy.”	Was this change for meaning, tone, clarity, or a combination of the 3?	Using the meanings of the words/phrases, support your choice from column two.	Did the change strengthen or weaken the speech? Why or how?