Scientists Concerns with Nuclear Weapons

OBJECTIVES

1) Discuss and analyze the scientific problems with nuclear weapons.

2) Critically assess why states choose to ignore these scientific concerns?

3) Discuss how these scientific concerns can be used to persuade states and individuals to change their views on nuclear weapons.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1) If scientists had concerns with the ethics of the Manhattan Project, then why did they continue to assist in the development of the atomic bomb?

2) How can scientists contribute now to solving the safety and environmental issues caused by nuclear weapons?

3) What role have scientists played in the past and what role can they continue to play in the future when it comes to disarmament, peace, and security?

ACTIVITIES

Read through the curriculum on scientists concerns with nuclear weapons, then with your peers, discuss what you would do if you were a scientist trying to persuade your government to not use nuclear weapons, what arguments would you use? How would you frame them?
OTHER RESOURCES

https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/peter-lax-manhattan-project-last-living-scientists-180975317/


https://www.britannica.com/event/Manhattan-Project