

MEMORANDUM TO: _____ [student's name]

FROM: _____ [teacher's name]

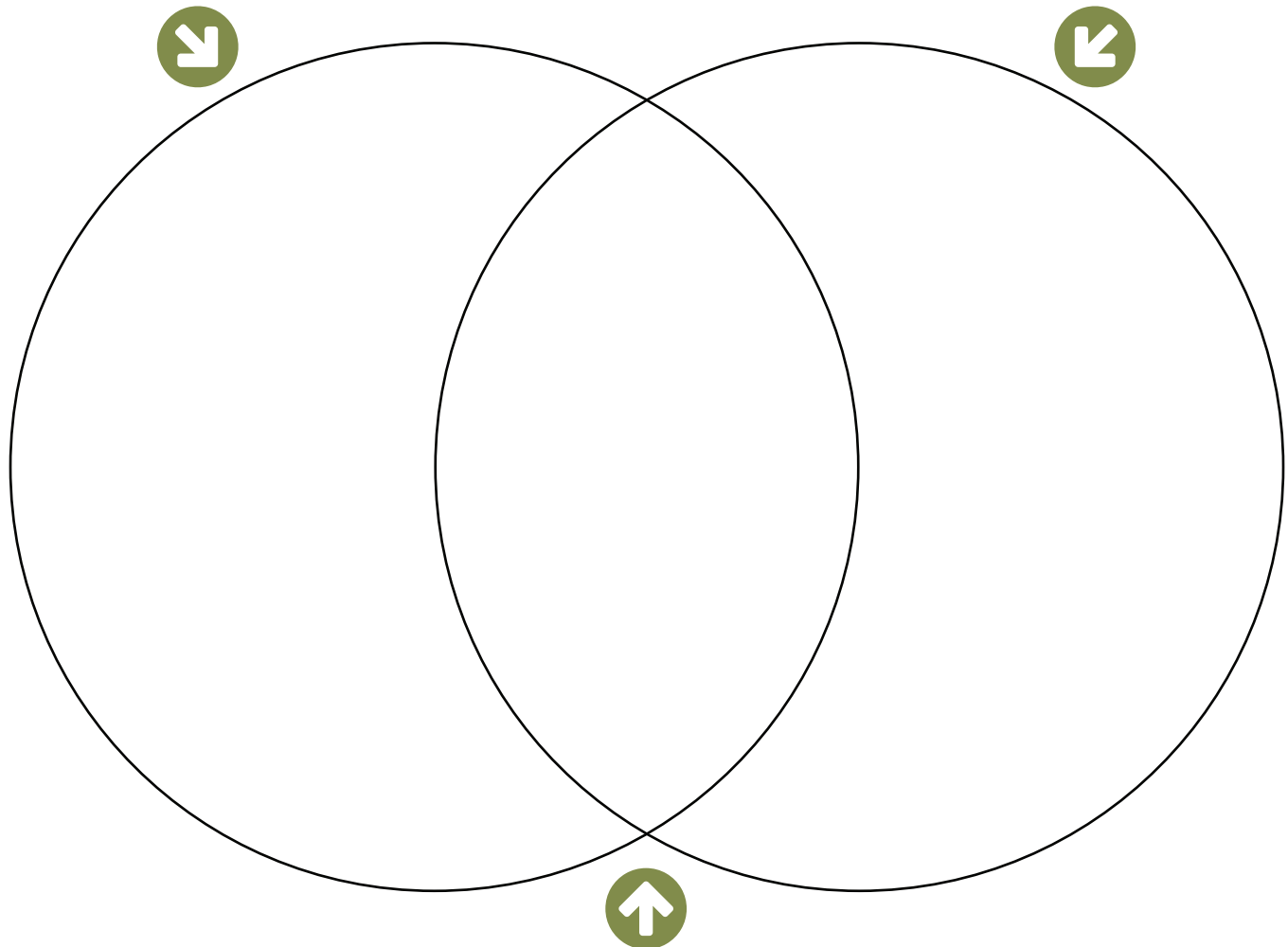
SUBJECT: _____

MISSION I: PRIMARY VS. SECONDARY SOURCES

Directions: Read the overview essay(s) and then write a short paragraph (no more than two or three sentences) summarizing your understanding of GIs' opinions about the subject at hand. After you have finished, read the primary source written by a soldier. With the new information from this primary source in mind, fill out the below graph with what you've learned and answer the question.

Information that you learned
from the essay

Information that you learned from the
handwritten response



Information that both the essay and
handwritten response provided.

? How did your historical summary change after reading the response?

MISSION II: SYNTHESIZING INFORMATION

Directions: Read at least three more responses from soldiers, asking yourselves the following questions to revise your historical summary.

1. What new information does this additional handwritten response provide?
2. Does this handwritten response corroborate or contradict any of the previous responses?
3. How does this handwritten response contribute to what I learned in the historical essay?

By the end of the activity, you should have revised your historical summary several times. Read back over them to see how your understanding of the topic has changed, and answer the following questions:

1. Describe the differences between the first version of your historical summary (the one you wrote after only having read the essays) and the last version.
2. Did any of the responses you read contradict one another? If so, why do you think that is? What does that tell you about the experiences of soldiers during World War II? Did one group of soldiers have a “better” experience than the other?
3. What other details would you need to write an even better historical summary of combat during World War II? What kinds of sources do you think would be helpful for finding those details?