



Explosion of the Maine (11.4.2)

Background:

After continuing revolts against Spanish rule in Cuba and agitation by major American newspapers, President McKinley was forced to act. In January 1889 he dispatched the USS Maine to Cuba to protect American interests there. On the evening of February 15 as the Maine sat at anchor in Havana Harbor the ship suddenly exploded. With 260 sailors dead cries for vengeance came from many parts of the country. Also people demanded to know what happened to cause the USS Maine to explode, was it an accident, sabotage, or an attack?

Prompt:

Whose explanation of why the USS Maine exploded is more reliable?

Task:

In a well thought out essay:

- Write a claim in response to the prompt.
- Support your claim by using at least four pieces of evidence and background reading.
- Be sure to explain how the evidence you have chosen supports your claim
- Incorporate an additional piece of evidence that argues against your claim and use your evidence to counter that opposing claim.