# Atomic Café Video Guide Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

State a SPECIFIC piece of evidence from the film to support the following statements.

## **Segment #1: The Iron Curtain, Communism Threat, Soviet A-Bomb (20:50-26:59)**

1. In the 1950’s, there was a clear division between friendly democratic and capitalist countries in Western Europe, and unfriendly, dictatorial and communist countries in Eastern Europe.

2. In the 1950’s, there was paranoia that communism could “take over” America.

3. In the video, communists are portrayed as evil and bad.

4. Capitalism and capitalists are portrayed as good.

5. The announcement that the Soviets had developed an atomic bomb caused great anxiety in the US.

## **Segment #2: The Korean War, Atom Bomb Debate (27:00- 32: 15)**

1. We considered using the atom bomb in the Korean War.

2. Some Americans were “bomb happy” during the time period – they thought the bomb should be used widely to achieve our goals.

3. The public became fatigued with the Korean War.

## **Segment #3: The Communist Threat In America (32:15- 39:30)**

1. America is glorified:

2. Suspected communists are portrayed negatively:

3. There was a fear of “spies within the government” during this time:

4. The Rosenbergs were the targets for much public hatred and scorn.

5. Later (after 1989 and the disintegration of the Soviet Union), Soviet spies will confirm that Julius was a spy, but Ethel knew nothing. This is ironic given the details of her execution.

**Segment #4: Brinkmanship, Mutually Assured Destruction, Paranoia ( 52:00 – 1:11:59)**

1. Americans became paranoid about the effect of atom bombs and bomb testing.

2. The government sought greater information about the effects of radiation, often at the expense of animals.

3. The government sought greater information about the effects of radiation, often at the expense of humans.

4. The government took pains to relate radiation poisoning to just another risk in life, like any other.

5. The government, in absence of conclusive data, took pains to reassure Americans that radiation was not terribly dangerous, and mainly just caused temporary inconvenience.

6. Americans took comfort in preparedness drills, and took pains to educate and inform people how to respond in case of attack.

7. People were given vastly different accounts of how they would be effected by a nuclear attack.

8. Businesses capitalized on Americans’ nuclear fears.