Dear Finn, Aesa, Hoshi and Katharina,

After going through your “Downfall” handouts and texts last week, you are now ready to start on your next outcome task.

This one is Outcome 2 of Unit 2 and it requires you to write an evaluation of opposing arguments on an issue. I’m happy to let you choose your own issue, as long as it’s taken from the “Downfall” unit of work. You could for example choose to write about:

* Was it a good decision by Traudl Junge to write about her experiences as Adolf Hitler’s secretary and those last days in the bunker, or should she have allowed this part of German history to be forgotten?
* When backed into a corner with no hope of escape, as the inhabitants of the bunker were, is it better to give up and hope for mercy or keep fighting “bis zur letzten Stunde” (until the final hour, incidentally the title of Traudl Junge’s book)?
* When confronted with the consequences of your actions, should you face the punishment you deserve or take your own life to escape your day of reckoning, as some of the Nazis who were brought to account for their crimes in the Nuremberg Trials did?
* When given orders by an increasingly deranged leader, should a military officer blindly follow those orders as required by his oath of allegiance or should he disobey in order to minimise the suffering of the civilian population, as Albert Speer did in the movie?

These are just examples of possible topics which would fulfil the scope of this outcome task. You can choose one of these or come up with your own. Please email me and let me know what your topic will be.

You will have this week and next week to complete this piece of writing, and you should aim for a word count of 200 words. Feel free to email me with drafts so I can provide you with feedback before you finalise your work.

I’m uploading these instructions to the Class 11 Wix page and also emailing them to you individually, just in case. Any questions, please be in touch.

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Talk to you soon!

Elisabeth