

## Document A: New York Journal

*Purchased by William Randolph Hearst in 1895, the Journal published Investigative and Human interest stories that used a highly emotional writing style and included banner headlines and graphic images.*

DESTRUCTION OF THE WAR SHIP MAINE WAS THE WORK OF AN ENEMY

Assistant Secretary Roosevelt  
Convinced the Explosion  
of the War Ship Was Not  
an Accident.

The Journal Offers \$50,000 Reward for the Conviction of the Criminals  
Who Sent 258 American Sailors to Their Death.  
Naval Officers Unanimous That  
the Ship Was Destroyed  
on Purpose.

NAVAL OFFICERS THINK THE MAINE WAS DESTROYED BY A SPANISH  
MINE.

George Eugene Bryson, the Journal's special correspondent at Havana, cables that it is the secret opinion of many Spaniards in the Cuban capital, that the Maine was destroyed and 258 men killed by means of marine mine or fixed torpedo. This is the opinion of several American naval authorities. The Spaniards, it is believed, arranged to have the Maine anchored over one of the harbor mines. Wires connected the mines with a...magazine, and it is thought the explosion was caused by sending an electric current through the wire. If this can be proven, the brutal nature of the Spaniards will be shown by the fact that they waited to spring the mine after all the men had retired for the night. The Maltese cross in the picture shows where the mine may have been fired.

Mine or a Sunken Torpedo Believed to Have Been the Weapon Used Against the American Man-Of-War—Officer and Men tell Thrilling Stories of Being Blown into the Air Amid a Mass of Shattered Steel and Exploding Shells—Survivors Brought to Key West Scout[t] the Idea of Accident—Spanish Officials Protest Too Much—Our Cabinet orders a Searching Inquiry—Journal Sends Divers to Havana to Report Upon the Condition of the Wreck. Was the Vessel Anchored Over a Mine?

Assistant Secretary of the Navy Theodore Roosevelt says he is convinced that the destruction of the Maine in Havana Harbor was not an accident. The Journal offers a reward of \$50,000 for the exclusive evidence that will convict the person, persons, or government criminally responsible for the [destruction] of the American battleship and the death of 258 of its crew.

The suspicion that the Main was deliberately blown up grows stronger every hour. Not a single fact to the contrary has been produced...

**Source:** *Except from New York Journal and Advertiser, February 17, 1898.*

## New York Journal Annotation Guide

### *Clarify meanings:*

1. Circle any words or phrases that do not make sense to you.
2. Work with your group to clarify and explain the meaning in the margin next to the circled word or phrase. If you cannot figure it out, put a question mark next to it.

### *Recognizing author's perspectives:*

1. Underline word or phrases that help you identify the newspaper's views of the causes of the *USS Maine* explosion.
2. Write in the margins next to the underlined words and phrases how you think the newspaper sees the explosion.

### *Recognizing author's arguments:*

1. Write "Evidence" next to any statements that the newspaper uses to support its claims.