According to the documents provided to us, during WWII the American people were told Japanese Americans needed to be separated from the general population as a matter of national security. However, more reliable sources point to the real reason for their internment: fear and racial prejudice.

In document A, “U.S office of War Info”, the government used propaganda to persuade the American people that the Japanese were isolated in order to protect our country. However, this video wasn’t very reliable because it was made by the US government and slanted to protect America’s good reputation. This video was geared to worried American citizens to persuade them that everything was fine.   
 Similarly, in document D, the Korematsu Supreme Court Ruling, the goal is to make America look good and keep a great reputation. In this case, the majority opinion favored the Americans and agreed that the government’s internment of the Japanese was justified in order to keep the security of our nation. Given that the document was written in 1944, the audience for the court decision was an America that was scared. The dissenting minority opinion was not included.

In document C, an editorial (by nature opinion-based) written by Harry Paxton Howard, he said Japanese-Americans were only targeted because of the color of their skin. He also said that other nationalities posed a more serious threat to the US, but because they were “white” they weren’t discriminated against. This was written by an African American, so he had a very opinionated and biased point of view because he is in a minority group that goes through a lot of racial discrimination as well. The audience for the article was other sympathetic minorities, which influences Howard’s strong opinion.   
 On the other hand, in the Munson Report (B), the government didn’t feel as if the Japanese- Americans were a threat of any kind. The article was written for the president, stating that most Japanese-Americans do not pose a threat. This source shows no bias, because the committee formed was neutral. The audience was the document was not for the general American public, and so no emotional bias was involved.   
 In document E, an excerpt from a 1980 Congressional report, it stated that Japanese-Americans were interned because of fear, prejudice, and a lack of good leadership in the American government; the Japanese people did not pose a security threat at all. This is a reliable source because several U.S citizens were asked their opinions on the issue, giving first hand accounts. Because of the passage of time, it also brought an unbiased perspective. There was no WWII during its time of writing, and so the public was not afraid, which allowed an honest perspective.

In conclusion, when reading historical documents one must take into consideration the authorship, audience, and reliability in order to get an accurate picture of historical events. While initially security was the reason given for the Japanese internment, unbiased documents reveal fear and prejudice as the reasons for their isolation.