

## War Poster Analysis

1. What is your immediate reaction upon seeing this poster for the first time? Appealing? Shocking? What emotions (if any) does it bring forth in you? Explain

2. Which country created this poster? \_\_\_\_\_

For which war? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Is the government agency or private corporation that created this poster mentioned? \_\_yes \_\_no

If yes, which one? \_\_\_\_\_

4. What colors are mainly used? \_\_\_\_\_

Do these colors have symbolic value? \_\_yes \_\_no

If yes, describe \_\_\_\_\_

5. Describe any symbols used in the poster and explain what each one represents:

· \_\_\_\_\_  
· \_\_\_\_\_  
· \_\_\_\_\_

6 Are any slogans or phrases included? \_\_yes \_\_no

If yes, explain \_\_\_\_\_

7. What are the main messages of this poster? Is it: (check all that apply)

\_\_ seeking your support for soldiers and sailors?

\_\_ asking you to do your part on the home front?

\_\_ intending to stir up negative feelings toward the enemy soldier and nation?

\_\_ other \_\_\_\_\_

8. Describe how the poster brings out the message(s).

Illustrations?

Colors?

Symbols?

Words?

9. As a result of seeing this poster, what action do you think the poster's creator hopes you will take?

10. In your judgment, is this a good war propaganda poster? Why or why not?

Does it get its message across clearly? Is it appealing? Easy to understand?

view websites:

<http://www.worldwar1.com/posters.htm>

<http://shs.westport.k12.ct.us/jwb/Collab/ColdWar/Propaganda/Propaganda.htm>

## Activities:

1. Describe or lay out a new poster for your nation's war effort, using the main theme or message contained in this one.
2. Take the role of the other person/nation against whom this war poster is aimed. Develop a poster to counteract the messages(s) contained in this one.

adapted from a project from the Truman Presidential Museum & Library

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### Elements of propaganda:

**name calling:** labels, negatively charged words, stereotypes,

**bandwagon:** join the crowd, you're with us or for the enemy

**glittering generalities:** combine words w/positive connotations with concept that is particularly beloved, and words with negative connotations w/ concepts that are hated

**cardstacking:** present only details that impact public opinion positively or negatively

**plain folks:** ordinary citizens are integral to the war effort

**fear:** scare people into choosing sides

**transfer:** associate symbol with positive or negative quality

### Elements of design: propaganda poster

**Emotional messages:**

**Images of :**

**positive**

strength

capable

feminine (women)

masculine (men)

self-sacrifice

united

**negative**

brutality

cruelty

weakness

effeminate

selfishness

hurtful

**Colors:**

muted colors

neutral

generally one element "pops"

**Line:**

strong outline/ contour

**Form:**

2 dimensional

**Space/perspective:**

dimension is created by overlap



Standards:

CA 5.1, 5.2., 5.5. , 5.8, 6.1, 6.2, 6.4

SSUS 4,2 Compares and contrasts differing sets of ideas, values, personalities, behaviors and institutions

SSUS 5.2 Distinguishes fact from opinions and draws inferences from factual material

SSUS 5.20 Conflicts

SSUS: 6.4 Interprets messages in political cartoons and art

SSUS: 6.21 Industrialization

SSUS: 6.22 Civil Rights

SSUS: 6.23 US History

SSUS: 7.6 Detects bias in point of view

SSUS 8.1 Recognizes self-evident principles or assumptions in a belief system

SSUS 8.5 Compares and contrasts differing accounts of the same event

SSUS 8.6 Recognizes how societies' values may effect interpretation of facts