



American Poster - Enlistment, Navy

Online Collections Database, 1920.1.103, www.theworldwar.org/research/database. National WWI Museum and Memorial.
Online.

A Short Activity: Mobilizing Women for War

Recommended Grade Levels: 9-12

Course/Content Area(s): U.S. History

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LESSON OVERVIEW:	In this lesson, students analyze propaganda and speculate why specific propaganda techniques were used when engaging with women and asking them to join the war effort overseas.
OBJECTIVES:	<i>Students will:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Analyze WWI propaganda aimed towards women ● Identify specific propaganda techniques used in posters
STANDARDS ALIGNMENT:	<p>National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) C3 Framework Standards:</p> <p>D2.His.3.9-12. Use questions generated about individuals and groups to assess how the significance of their actions changes over time and is shaped by the historical context.</p> <p>D2.His.11.9-12. Critique the usefulness of historical sources for a specific historical inquiry based on their maker, date, place of origin, intended audience, and purpose.</p>
TIME NEEDED:	30 Minutes
INTERDISCIPLINARY:	Art, Marketing
PRIOR KNOWLEDGE:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students should know the definition of propaganda ● Students should understand women's roles in the United States before WWI
MATERIALS NEEDED:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Copy of each poster (digitally accessible by students or printed) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ See Bibliography for full resolution versions ● Propaganda worksheet (1 per student, Appendix A)

LESSON

PRE-ASSESSMENT/INTRODUCTION/HOOK:

Ask students what they know about the roles women can currently access in the U.S. military. Students can do some quick research about any recent news about the topic.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Students will look at the [list of propaganda techniques](#) and will share examples of where they have seen certain techniques used.
2. Students will do a gallery walk of WWI propaganda posters about women in the military. As students look at each poster, they will fill out the worksheet (Appendix A).

POST-ASSESSMENT:

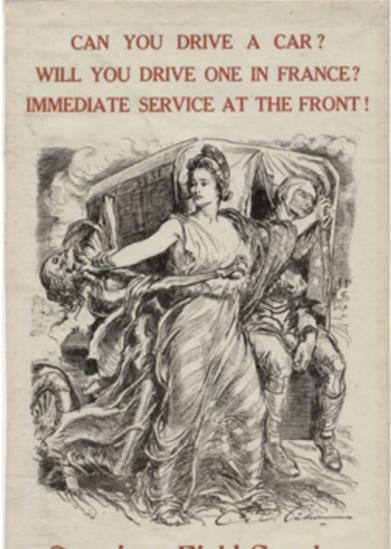
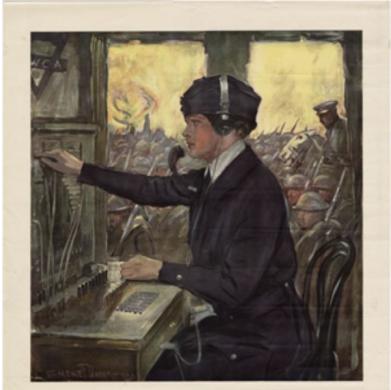
Students will each fill out an exit ticket in a paragraph answering the following question:

- American women were asked to participate in the war effort in many ways. To what extent was active military service encouraged?

MODIFICATIONS/ACCOMMODATIONS

- Students can analyze fewer posters if they need more time to analyze each one
- For the exit ticket, students can answer: What was the purpose of this propaganda? Was it successful?

Appendix A:

Poster	How does the image serve to encourage women to join the war effort overseas?	What method(s) of propaganda are being used? How do you know?
 <p>CAN YOU DRIVE A CAR? WILL YOU DRIVE ONE IN FRANCE? IMMEDIATE SERVICE AT THE FRONT!</p> <p>American Field Service 40 State Street Boston, Mass.</p>		
 <p>Back our girls over there</p> <p>Y.W.C.A.</p> <p>United War Work Campaign</p>		

Poster	How does the image serve to encourage women to join the war effort overseas?	What method(s) of propaganda are being used? How do you know?
		
		

Bibliography:

Online Collections Database, “1920.1.257b”, www.theworldwar.org/research/database. National WWI Museum and Memorial. Online. Accessed July 19, 2025.

Online Collections Database, “1920.1.182”, www.theworldwar.org/research/database. National WWI Museum and Memorial. Online. Accessed July 19, 2025.

Online Collections Database, “”, www.theworldwar.org/research/database. National WWI Museum and Memorial. Online. Accessed July 19, 2025.

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<https://odp.library.tamu.edu/engl1301/chapter/propaganda-techniques-in-media/>