

Document 1: *Excerpt from Why America Fights Germany (1918), a government propaganda pamphlet concerning alleged German atrocities.*

"We were horrified still more by their conduct in Belgium—by their needless destruction of precious things, by their vile and filthy treatment of the Belgians, by their robberies, by their numberless murders. A German soldier fell off his bicycle and his gun went off; he declared he had been shot at, and all the inhabitants of the village were burned to death in their homes. Feeble old Belgian priests were forced to walk in front of the marching German armies as screens, so that if the Belgians fired they might kill the priests first. Babies were stabbed with bayonets. Belgians were carried off into Germany and forced to work for the German armies. ... Whole books have been written about these horrors, against all law and humanity, and yet half of them have not been recorded."

Document 2: *Excerpt from Joe's War: Memoirs of a Doughboy by Joseph N. Rizzi.*

"When we did meet she [Rizzi's girlfriend] would show me [news]papers carrying cruelties committed by the Huns. She called me a coward and said that I was ungrateful by not serving for our country. She tormented me with the fact that she would never marry me unless I entered the army. I tried to reason with her and point out that some of the acts were being exaggerated to incite people against the Germans. If acts WERE committed they were by some individual and a whole nation could not be condemned. I tried to show her that the atrocities related by the papers were being committed by criminals in civilian life; therefore, some unruly Germans were perpetuating those acts, and false propaganda also was being issued. But still she refused to listen to me and remained deaf to any of my phone calls and would not answer my letters."

Document 3: *Excerpt from How the War Came to America (1917), a government propaganda pamphlet.*

"On the eve of the present conflict, our position toward other nations might have been summarized under three heads:

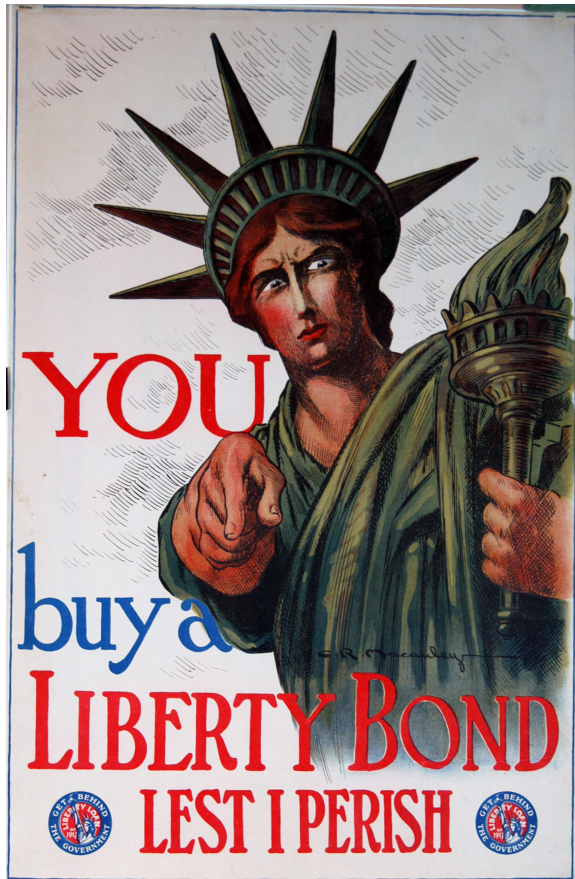
I. The Monroe Doctrine.—We had pledged ourselves to defend the New World from European aggression, and we had by word and deed made it clear that we would not intervene in any European dispute.

II. The freedom of the seas.—In every naval conference our influence had been given in support of the principle that sea law to be just and worthy of general respect must be based on the consent of the governed.

III. Arbitration.—As we had secured peace at home by referring interstate disputes to a federal tribunal, we urged a similar settlement of international controversies. Our ideal was a permanent

world court. We had made plain to the nations our purpose to forestall by every means in our power the recurrence of wars in the world."

Document 4: *Liberty Bond poster, 1918.*



Document 5: *Excerpt from President Wilson's 2 April, 1917 address before Congress, calling for war against Germany.*

"We are glad, now that we see the facts with no veil of false pretense about them, to fight thus for the ultimate peace of the world and for the liberation of its peoples, the German peoples included: for the rights of nations great and small and the privilege of men everywhere to choose their way of life and of obedience. The world must be made safe for democracy. Its peace must be planted upon the tested foundations of political liberty. We have no selfish ends to serve. We desire no conquest, no dominion. We seek no indemnities for ourselves, no material compensation for the sacrifices we shall freely make. We are but one of the champions of the rights of mankind. We shall be satisfied when those rights have been made as secure as the faith and the freedom of nations can make them."

Document 6: *Editorial excerpt from The Washington Post titled "Liberty Draws the Sword", 4 April, 1917.*

"Now comes the great republic, the natural enemy and destroyer of autocracy. With insane rage autocracy has challenged the sovereignty of this nation. It has struck squarely at the life of democracy, and boasts that it will overcome the United States. The spokesman of the world's free people has sounded the call to arms. America is called upon to defend herself and destroy her assailant. There is not room on earth or ocean for both autocracy and democracy. One or the other must perish."

Document 7: *Poem, The New Crusade, by Katharine Lee Bates. From the Committee on Public Information's 1918 publication, The Battle Line of Democracy: Prose and Poetry of the World War.*

The New Crusade

LIFE is a trifle;
Honor is all;
Shoulder the rifle;
Answer the call.
A nation of traders'!
We'll show what we are,
Freedom's crusaders
Who war against war.

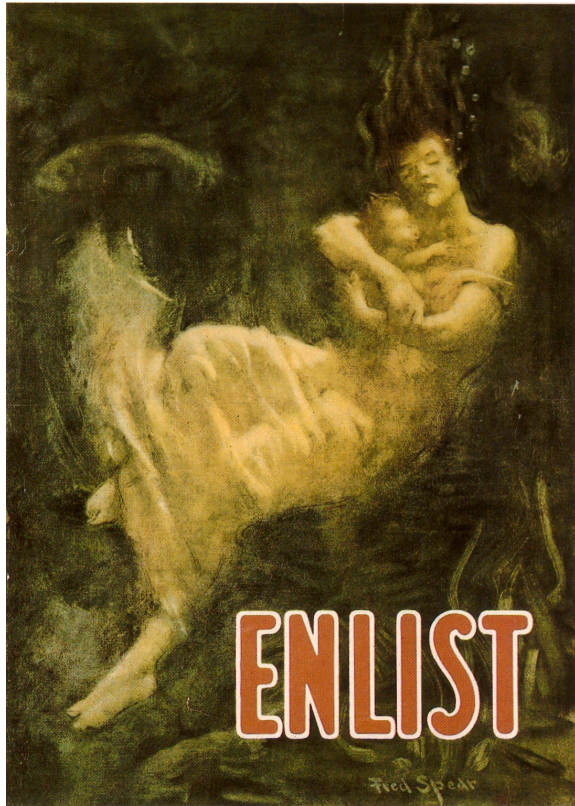
Battle is tragic;
Battle shall cease;
Ours is the magic
Mission of Peace.

Gladly we barter
Gold of our youth
For Liberty's charter

Blood-sealed in truth.
'A nation of traders'!
We'll show what we are,
Freedom's crusaders
Who war against war.

Sons of the granite,
Strong be our stroke,
Making this planet
Safe for the folk.
Life is but passion,
Sunshine on dew.
Forward to fashion
The old world anew!
'A nation of traders'!
We'll show what we are,
Freedom's crusaders
Who war against war.

Document 8: *A woman and her child drown after their passenger ship, the R.M.S. Lusitania, is sunk by a German submarine. 1915 recruitment poster by Fred Spear.*



Document 9: *Excerpt of speech by Sen. George Norris (R-Nebraska), 4 April 1917.*

"It is now demanded that the American citizens shall be used as insurance policies to guarantee the safe delivery of munitions of war to belligerent nations. The enormous profits of munition [sic] manufacturers, stockbrokers, and bond dealers must be still further increased by our entrance into the war. This has brought us to the present moment, when Congress, urged by the President and backed by the artificial sentiment, is about to declare war and engulf our country in the greatest holocaust that the world has ever known. We are taking a step today that is fraught with untold danger. We are going into war upon the command of gold. We are going to run the risk of sacrificing millions of our countrymen's lives in order that other countrymen may coin their lifeblood into money. And even if we do not cross the Atlantic and go into the trenches, we are going to pile up a debt that the tolling masses that shall come many generations after us will have to pay. Unborn millions will bend their backs in toil in order to pay for the terrible step we are now about to take."

Document 10: *In 1917, Emma Goldman was arrested and accused of inciting men not to register for the military draft, a federal crime. This is an excerpt of a speech Goldman gave at her trial. She was found guilty.*

"We say that if America has entered the war to make the world safe for democracy, she must first make democracy safe in America. How else is the world to take America seriously, when democracy at home is daily being outraged, free speech suppressed, peaceable assemblies broken up by overbearing and brutal gangsters in uniform; when free press is curtailed and every independent opinion gagged. Verily, poor as we are in democracy, how can we give of it to the world?"

Document 11: *Excerpt of editorial from the German-language Omaha Daily Tribune, February 1917.*

"The break with our old fatherland is at hand and on account of questions whose handling by our government sometimes seemed to us not entirely just and in keeping with the best interests of the future of our country. But we have duties toward our adopted country. Our allegiance belongs to America first, last, and all the time. These duties we must perform and will perform above all considerations regardless of what the future may have in store for us."

RUBRIC - 95 total points

1) IDEAS/CONTENT - 30 points

- **Point of view is focused and specific.**
- **Ideas are clear, focused, and relevant to the topic.**
- **Elaboration of ideas critical thinking (analysis, synthesis, evaluation, reflection).**
- **Evidence is related to the main idea.**
- **Evidence is accurate and supported by provided source materials.**
- **Ideas are elaborated upon with specific information**

2) HISTORICAL ACCURACY & INFORMATION - 25 points

- **Information relates to the question.**
- **Historical content is accurate and complete**
- **Specific details are included**
- **Demonstrates an understanding of historical events**

3) INTRODUCTION AND THESIS STATEMENT - 20 points

- **Engaging and Informative Thesis**
- **Includes Specific Ideas related to the Thesis**
- **Appropriate response to the question**

4) ORGANIZATION - 15 Points

- **Progression of ideas is logical and effective.**
- **Transitions vary and connect ideas, sentences, and paragraphs.**
- **Ideas/content and organization of paragraphs is coherent.**

5) CONVENTIONS - 5 points

- **Spelling**
- **Punctuation**
- **Capitalization**
- **Grammar**