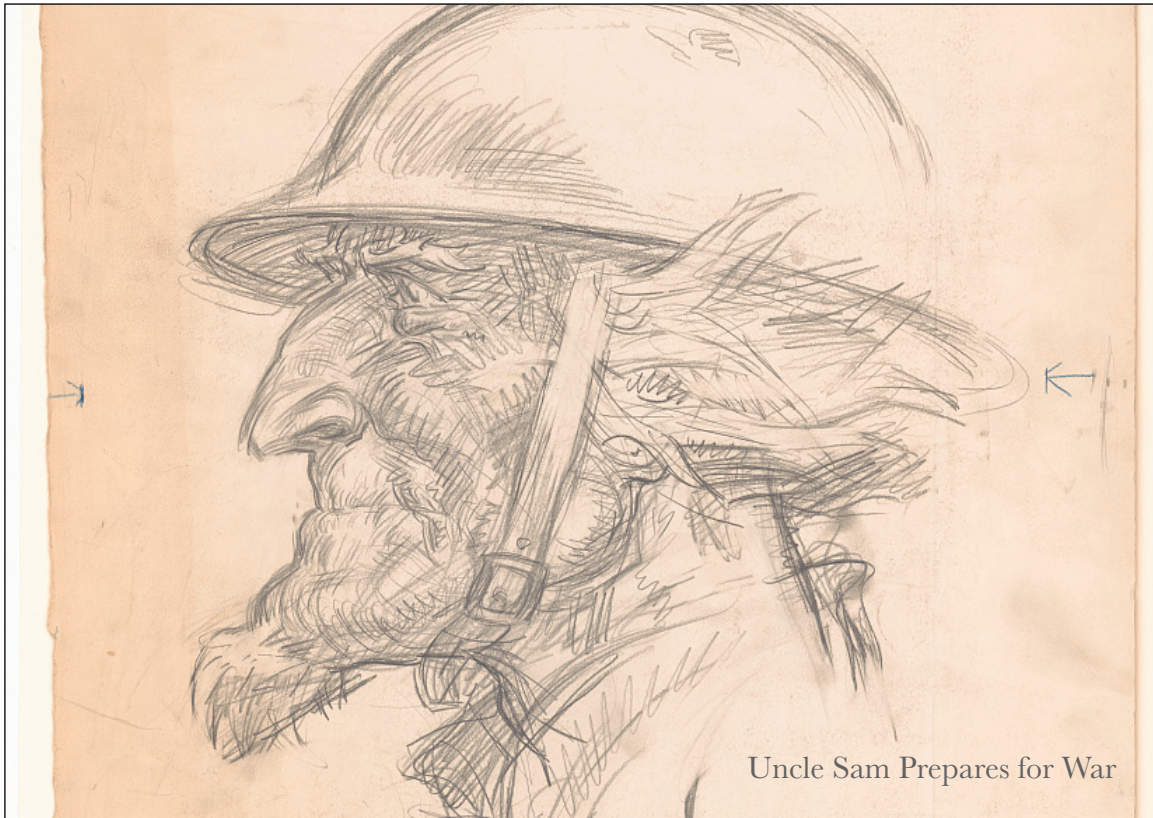


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# A Great Debate

## Should the U.S. Have Entered World War I?

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**Directions:** Students will select a participant role and argue his or her point from the perspective of that person (or group) on the subject of whether or not the United States of America should have entered World War I.

After selecting a participant role, students will conduct independent research on his or her “character” to prepare for an in-class debate. Students will prepare a one page “talking points” write-up for his or her character.

Each student will have two minutes to introduce his or her character and his or her stance toward the war without interruption during an in-class roundtable. Students will then form alliances with other like-minded participants to argue for or against the war in a formal debate.

After the in-class roundtable and debate, students will write a one-page reflection on his or her position toward war, if it changed or remained the same, and why.

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## Suggested Participant Roles

- Political Figures:
  - President Woodrow Wilson
  - Ambassador James W. Gerard
  - Secretary of State William Jennings Bryan
  - Secretary of the Interior Franklin K. Lane
  - Secretary of State Robert Lansing
  - U.S. Senator Robert La Follette of Wisconsin
  - U.S. Senator Warren G. Harding of Ohio
  - U.S. Representative Jeannette Rankin of Montana
- Business Leaders:
  - Businessman Herbert Hoover
  - Labor Leader Samuel Gompers
  - The Rockefeller Family
- War Opponents:
  - Anti War League Members: Rev. Morgan Chambers, Ms. E.G. Perry,
  - The Women's Peace Party Members: Jane Adams, Anna Garlin Spencer, Fanny Garrison Villard, Lucia Ames Mead, Sophonisba Breckinridge
- Military Figures:
  - General John J. Pershing
  - Sergeant Alvin York
  - Lafayette Escadrille member Raoul Lufbery
  - Harlem Hellfighter Henry Johnson
  - Major Charles Whittlesey
  - Officer Edouard Izac
  - Sergeant Dan Daly
- Other roles students may adopt:
  - Small business owner
  - American male age 21 to 36 who must register for the pending draft
  - A conscientious objector
  - A suffragette or farmerette
  - A wife or mother of draft eligible age son(s)
  - Tax payer
  - A Lusitania survivor or family member effected by the tragedy
  - A German American