

## TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

### Propaganda and Censorship

#### Propaganda

Propaganda is the spreading of ideas, information or rumours for the purpose of furthering a cause or goal. In wartime, governments have used propaganda to justify their war aims, encourage enlistment and urge citizens to increase production, recycle used items and buy victory bonds. Propaganda can also vilify one's enemy or exaggerate one's own accomplishments.

During the First World War, the primary means of communication was through newspapers, since televisions and radios did not yet exist. Equally effective, governments, companies and patriotic individuals employed posters to influence the public. These posters were mass produced and appeared everywhere across Canada. A Canadian, living in a major urban centre, could not walk down the streets, go shopping, or open a newspaper without seeing a poster related to the war.

Examine the four propaganda posters (attached) that appeared in Canada during the First World War. For each poster, answer the following questions:

1. What is the main message of this poster?
2. What technique is used to reinforce this message?
3. What emotions or feelings is this poster trying to evoke?
4. To what extent does this poster rely on exaggeration to convince?
5. How effective do you think this poster would be today?



# OVER THE TOP

## An Interactive Story

[http://www.warmuseum.ca/cwm/overtop/index\\_e.html](http://www.warmuseum.ca/cwm/overtop/index_e.html)

### Propaganda Posters

