

US HISTORY

Name:

American Entry into War Document Analysis & Debate Points Possible: 25 pts

***Directions** – Download the “American Entry into War Doc Analysis” on the Projects page under Topic 8. Read documents A and B (speeches from President Woodrow Wilson) and document C (a work of historical analysis by historian Howard Zinn) and answer the questions. You will then prepare a speech to present before Congress to argue whether or not the United States should enter into the European War.

Document A: Woodrow Wilson Speech #1

Context: This speech was given to Congress after the European War had begun, but before the United States had become involved in any way except through previously existing trade relations.

1. Does Wilson think the United States should enter WWI? Why or why not?

Document B: Woodrow Wilson Speech #2

Context: After three years of warfare in Europe, the United States continues to feel pulled toward the conflict by the spring of 1917, but remains divided upon issues of whether American involvement would be either necessary or justified.

1. Does Wilson think that the United States should enter WWI by the spring of 1917? Why or why not?

2. What does Wilson accuse German of doing? Does this seem like a good reason to go to war against Germany?

3. Re-read the last two paragraphs of the 1917 speech. What does Wilson hope to achieve through American involvement in this war? Why do you think Wilson added these?

Document C: Howard Zinn (Historian)

1. Why does Zinn claim that Wilson made a “flimsy argument?”

2. What does Zinn suggest are the *real* reasons that the United States entered WWI?

3. What evidence does Zinn provide to support his claims that the United States was motivated by other reasons (beside German attacks on U.S. ships)?

Prepare a Speech Before Congress:

- Write a one paragraph speech that describes whether the United States should enter into WWI, and your speech should clarify your position on all of the following:
 - Which side should the United States support, and to what extent?
 - What are the reasons that the United States should or should not join the war?
 - What benefits or negative consequences could this war have for the United States and the world?