

**Efforts of Persuasion:
World War II Propaganda**

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Junior
Documentary

I had originally planned to do my project on the relationship between Hollywood and Politics. I had a connection to Michael Moore and I wanted to pick a topic that he would have a lot to say about. After it was clear I was not going to get an interview with him, I realized that my topic was boring and undefined. I found a huge document including at least 100 primary documents that described the propaganda the United States used in the Middle East during the Cold War. This introduced the idea of propaganda to me, which I felt would be an interesting topic I could be passionate about but it was still very broad. I slowly honed in on the areas that had the most information starting first with World War I and II and the Cold War. I found little information on World War I and although there was an incredible amount of propaganda used in the Cold War I wasn't finding any information on it. So I arrived on World War II Propaganda.

Of course I started with Google.com finding chunks of information about different forms of propaganda mostly German propaganda. I wasn't interested in German propaganda but it was the only area where I was finding information until I found out about an organization called the Office of War Information, otherwise known as the Bureau of Propaganda created in World War II by the United States government. Finding that information jumpstarted my research because I finally found a key word to look for. I found five videos that I felt related to my topic and ordered them. I read a few newspaper articles I accessed from my class' internet account with an online archive and found four or five great books that I read.

Last year I did a documentary with a group of my friends. We were awarded the superior medal; however, we did not make it to state, which was our intended goal. My group procrastinated last year and that's why we did not make it. I felt that without my friends in my group, I could focus more and create a better documentary. I know a film

editor who has some exceptional audio equipment and so, after writing the script, I used the equipment to record it. I edited the audio until it was refined and ready and began to insert my visuals. Slowly I inserted visuals that I felt fit what I was saying and used as much video as I could in order to create a moving picture documentary.

My topic relates to the theme Communication and Understanding because propaganda was used in World War II as a form of communicating a particular belief or set of beliefs to the public by all governments involved in the war. These governments used the media and cinema to manipulate their people. And understanding how propaganda was used then can help us identify how it's used today and resist being manipulated by it.