

## **Why did the United States Enter WWI?**

**Name:**

### **Document A: America and World War I Introduction**

- 1) How did Americans initially respond to WWI? What did President Wilson say Americans should do?
  
- 2) Was the United States neutral in the war? Explain.
  
- 3) Why did the sinking of the Lusitania anger Americans?
  
- 4) Why was Germany's announcement of unrestricted submarine warfare significant?
  
- 5) What was the Zimmerman note and what did it lead America to do?

### **Document B: President Wilson's Speech**

- 1) After reading the speech, does Wilson think the United States should enter WWI (use one SPECIFIC example)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2) Use the 1917 speech to "imagine the setting." (a) What does Wilson accuse Germany of doing? (b) If you were in Wilson's position, do you think this is a good reason to go to war? Explain.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 3) Re-read the last two paragraphs of the 1917 speech. What types of emotions was Wilson trying to get Americans to feel?

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### Document C: Howard Zinn Excerpt

- 1) Sourcing: Before reading the document, read the italicized portion at the end. How does this information help to understand his perspective?
  
- 2) Why does Zinn claim that Wilson made a “flimsy argument?”
  
- 3) What does Zinn suggest are the *real* reasons the United States entered the war?
  
- 4) What evidence does Zinn provide to support his claims that the United States was motivated by other reasons (besides German attacks on U.S. ships)?
  
- 5) After reading the documents from President Wilson and Howard Zinn, whose perspective do you feel is most credible? Defend your answer with SPECIFIC information from the documents.