

The Mannequin & the DiaryActivity 3 Worksheet: Diary Entries from Western Front, World War I

Introduction

In this activity, you will be asked to write five to ten diary entries for a fictional wartime character. Using the content available in the videos and the Themes & Images section, you must construct a profile of the character and then write a series of short diary entries that provide insight into his or her wartime experience.

To get an idea of other styles of diary entries, visit:

<http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/those-who-served/diaries-letters-stories/first-world-war>

3. Diary Entries from Western Front, World War One

Create a character based on an occupation (bank teller, etc.) that you find in the ‘Mannequin & the Diary’, either in the videos or the supporting content. Create a brief biography (30 - 50 words) for the character, including:

- name
- year of birth
- where he or she lived before the war
- what his or her role was in the war (machine gunner etc.).

Creating the Diary Entries:

Remember that you are looking for information that shows what life in the trenches of the Western front would have been like for your character. Don’t forget that women were also on the Western Front as nurses. The diary entries of Byron Cooper Sisler will give you some idea of how to approach your writing.

Step 1

Watch first video. (You may skip Steps 2 - 4 if you have already viewed the exhibit; you may also need to review some of the video content).

Step 2

After finding the correct answer to ‘Signing Up & Training’, you should take a few minutes to make any notes or review any necessary content.

Step 3

Repeat the above steps with the remaining videos if you have not already viewed them.

Step 4

There are a number of occupations identified in the videos and related materials (i.e. Byron Cooper Sisler was a bank clerk). You can browse through the Themes and Images on the website for the 'Mannequin & the Diary' for ideas. Select one for your character.

Step 5

There are a number of major battles mentioned in "Surviving the Trenches" and "Going Home". Select one for your character.

Step 6

Visit the Themes and Images section and select two artefacts to integrate into your diary entries. (Ross rifle, trench periscope, gas mask, nurse's hat)

Step 7

Draft 5 to 10 diary entries.

Step 8

Have another student proof-read your entries.

Step 9

Create final draft of diary with title page.