

“Winning the War” for Visual Literacy: Using Padlet for Primary Source Instruction

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Working with students in person as they engage with historic materials is a bedrock of primary source instruction. When COVID-19 pushed classes online, that experience was removed. To bridge the virtual distance, Special Collections Librarians at UNCG devised an exercise using World War I recruiting posters and Padlet to introduce students to primary source analysis.

For this first-year course about World War I, [digitized posters from the Library of Congress \(LOC\) website](#) were chosen, which offered a broader and more inclusive selection than the posters physically held at UNCG.

The class was done via Zoom, with each student analyzing a poster and answering a series of questions about the messaging. They typed their responses directly into the Padlet "board," allowing for a class discussion. Zoom breakout rooms can be used for larger classes.

This highly-interactive exercise can be adapted a variety of classes with a visual literacy focus. Public domain images can be found at [LOC](#) and the [Digital Library of America](#).

[Access the class Padlet to see the questions and responses.](#)

