6. Propaganda

Activities

I. Test Your Knowledge ...

True or False?
1. Propaganda is used today.
2. Propaganda was first used in World War II.
3. A cereal commercial is propaganda.
4. Propaganda always expresses a negative message.
5. George Bush and John Kerry used propaganda in their election campaigns.
6. Propaganda was used to promote the Iraq war.
7. Propaganda is always in the form of cartoons.
8. The word propaganda was originally used in 1622 to refer to a congregation of cardinals in the Catholic Church. This group was instructed to counter the Protestant teachings.
9. Many groups of people have been, and still are, the target of negative propaganda.
10. Governments and political parties frequently use propaganda.
11. Propaganda can be found in school textbooks.
12. Propaganda often encourages people to be afraid.

Bonus:
Which of these definitions best describes propaganda? (Could be more than one — circle all that apply.)

1. information that is spread for the purpose of promoting some cause.
2. information spread by government or powerful group to sway public opinion.
3. well-researched news that shows both sides of a conflict or issue.
4. misleading information that supports a political cause or the interests of those in power.
5. outright lies that are used to deceive people.
6. advertising — information aimed at selling a particular product.

1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6.

ANSWERS:

1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6.
II. Euphemisms

Euphemisms are frequently used in propaganda.

Euphemisms are used to make something sound not as bad as it is. A euphemism is a mild or vague substitute for a blunt, explicit expression. While some euphemisms are socially acceptable, others can hide or blur reality.

Can you match the euphemism to its “plain speak” word or phrase?

**Euphemism**

“Plain Speak”

**Golden Years**

Deaths and Injuries

**Pre-Owned Automobile**

Death

**Estate Jewelry**

Suspect

**Fatal Injury**

Bush’s environmental plan to cut down trees

**Healthy Forests**

Genocide

**Final Solution**

Second-hand Jewelry

**Ethnic Cleansing**

Used Car

**Person of Interest**

Sending Jews to concentration camps

**Casualties**

Imprisonment without due process of law

**Resettlement of the Jews (during the Holocaust)**

Old Age

**Protective Custody**

Decision to murder every Jew in Europe

**SUGGESTED RESOURCES**

**Suggested Resources on German Propaganda**


And more ...

**Euphemisms: Discussion Questions:**

- Why would we use euphemisms instead of the more common or “plain speak” words?
- What is the effect on the reader or listener when a euphemism is used? What might happen if the basic meanings were used instead of euphemisms?
- Why do you think “Patriot Act” was a good name for the act that was passed after 9/11?
- How many euphemisms can you think of for “dead and buried”? (There are at least 213 ... To see the list check out phrontistery.50megs.com/longpig/dead.html.)

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And more ...
Books

- “Hitler’s Airwaves: The Inside Story of Nazi Radio Broadcasting and Propaganda Swing” by Horst J.P. Bergmeier and Rainer E. Lotz (High School and up)

Films

- “Triumph of the Will” (Middle School and up)
- “Heil Hitler: Confessions of a Hitler Youth” (Middle School and up)

Teacher Guides

- Cartoon Analysis worksheet: archives.govdigital_classroom/lessons/analysis_worksheets/cartoon.html
- “How Was It Humanly Possible: A Study of Perpetrators and Bystanders During the Holocaust” Written by Irena Steinfeld, Yad Vashem. Includes a chapter “Prelude to Murder: School in Nazi Germany.” (Middle School and up)

Web Sites

- On Nazi Propaganda: calvin.edu/academic/az/gpa/usnhm.org/outreach/propag.htm
- On Joseph Goebbels: calvin.edu/academic/az/gpa/goebbmain.htm
- On Julius Streicher: www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/GERstreicher.htm

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