Persuasive Posters

Activity: Persuasive Posters
Category: Group Activity/Make It!
Series: America at War (World War II: 12 Things to Know)

Supplies

- *World War II: 12 Things to Know*
- The book's 12StoryLibrary.com page: http://www.12storylibrary.com/non-fiction/america-at-war/world-war-ii/
  - o The "Poster Art from World War II" web resource
- Paper, colored pencils, markers

Prep

Read *World War II: 12 Things to Know* with the students, or assign it to them to read on their own.

Directions

During World War II, the United States created posters asking its citizens to participate in the war effort in many ways: to join the navy, to work in manufacturing, to reuse things, to buy war bonds, or to be careful not to spread too much information. The posters were designed to make their viewers feel a certain way, which would then cause the viewers to act.

The "Poster Art from World War II" web resource shows several of these posters. First, show the students the posters in Part I and ask the following questions:

1. What colors and images do these posters use?
2. How do these colors and images add to or reinforce the text?
3. What do you think these posters are designed to make their audience feel?

Then show the students the posters in Part II and ask the following questions:

1. What colors and images do these posters use?
2. How do these colors and images add to or reinforce the text?
3. What do you think these posters are designed to make their audience feel?
4. How are these posters different than the posters in Part I?
5. Which posters do you think are more effective? Why?

Split the students into groups of three or four. Each group should choose a message (such as "Recycle!" or "Eat more vegetables!") and design a poster to communicate it. They should choose colors, images, and text that will motivate the rest of the class to follow their poster's message.

Evaluation
Could the students answer the questions? Did each group choose colors, images, and text that reinforced their poster's messages? RL 5.7, RL 5.9

Purpose
To help students study the way colors, images, and word choice help create an effect on their audience, and to practice making choices about these elements to reinforce their own message.