

Name _____

Crossing Into War Answer Key

1. The sinking of the *Lusitania* in 1915 angered Americans after over 100 U.S. citizens were killed.
2. German submarines attacked neutral and civilian ships, putting American lives and trade at risk.
3. The **Zimmermann Telegram** proposed an alliance between Germany and Mexico against the United States.
4. The U.S. had strong trade and loan connections with the Allied Powers, making their victory important to American interests.
5. Wilson said the U.S. must make the world "safe for democracy," meaning America should fight to defend freedom and democratic values.

Teacher's Guide

- **Purpose:** This worksheet helps students identify and explain **key political, economic, and moral reasons** behind the U.S. entry into World War I, building short-response writing and critical-thinking skills.
- **Differentiation Tips:**
 - For developing writers, provide **sentence starters** like "One reason the U.S. entered the war was..."
 - For advanced students, ask them to rank the causes in order of importance and justify their reasoning.
 - Discuss vocabulary terms beforehand, such as "neutrality," "telegram," and "democracy."
- **Engagement Ideas:**
 - Host a mini "War Debate" where students take the roles of isolationists and interventionists from 1917.
 - Have students write a short newspaper headline that might have appeared the day the U.S. declared war.
- **Extension Activities:**
 - Connect to a primary source reading of the **Zimmermann Telegram** or **Wilson's War Message to Congress**.
 - Encourage students to research how propaganda influenced American support for entering the war.