

## The Home Front in World War II: Writing a newspaper article

### **Introduction:**

In this activity, students will conduct research and use creative writing skills to write an article that might have been in the *Chicago Tribune* in 1945. The article will focus on the efforts of the people on the home front during World War II.

**Grade level:** 7<sup>th</sup> through 12th

### **Illinois State Goals:**

3B, 16B, 16C

### **Activity:**

(Students can use their textbooks, the internet, and the books listed in the bibliography to complete this activity.)

It is spring 1945 and you are a journalist for the *Chicago Tribune*. Your assignment is to write an article- not about the Pacific and European battlefronts, but about what's going on in your own backyard in Illinois. How is the war affecting the everyday lives of people? What new and different things are people doing- such as women working, rationing, conserving materials, etc? The *Chicago Tribune* itself is also part of the war effort, so the underlying theme of your article should be to encourage people to keep working hard for the soldiers on the front. It's a survey of what great things people are pitching in to do to support the troops, and it's also propaganda to keep those things going.

Use these questions as your guide as you write your article:

1. What are children doing for the war effort? Are their schools doing something?
2. What is a victory garden and how does it help?
3. What foods are people discouraged from eating and why?
4. What materials are people encouraged to save and turn in?
5. What vacation plans do people have?

6. What are housewives doing- instead of staying home?
7. What is the attitude of businesses, especially factories?
8. Why is it good to work hard at home for the soldiers on the battlefronts?

Make sure your article is interesting and gets people's attention. Also make sure it gets people excited about helping out the war effort at home.

**Resources at the Pritzker Military Library, also available through interlibrary loan:**

Bailey, Ronald. *The Home Front, U.S.A.* Alexandria, VA: Time-Life, 1977.

Cohen, Stan. *V for Victory: America's Home Front During World War II.* Missoula, MT: Pictorial Histories Pub., 1991.

Cooke, Alistair. *The American Home Front, 1941-1942.* New York: Atlantic Monthly Press, 2006.

Duis, Perry, and LaFrance, Scott. *We've Got a Job To Do: Chicagoans and World War II.* Chicago, IL: Chicago Historical Society, 1992.

Eiler, Keith. *Mobilizing America: Robert P. Patterson and the War Effort, 1940-1945.* Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1997.

Gowan, Hugh. *Cooking on the Home Front: Favorite Recipes of the World War II Years.* Martinsburg, PA: Daisy, 1994.

Green, Paul M. and Holli, Melvin G. *World War II Chicago.* Chicago, IL: Arcadia Publishing, 2003.

Kimble, James J. *Mobilizing the Home Front: War Bonds and Domestic Propaganda.* College Station, TX: Texas A&M University Press, 2006

Lewis, Brenda Ralph. *Women at War: the Women of World War II- at Home, at Work, on the Front Line.* Pleasantville, NY: Reader's Digest, 2002.

Nunes, Bill. *Illinois in World War II.* Glen Carbon, IL: B. Nunes, 2007.

Weiner, Tom. *Voices of War: Stories of Service from the Home Front and the Front Lines.* Washington, DC: National Geographic Society, 2004.

Yellin, Emily. *Our Mothers' War: American Women at Home and at the Front During World*

*War II.* New York: Free Press, 2004.

**Video:**

*Remembering Chicago & World War II.* Chicago, IL: WTTW, 1997