MacArthur Memorial Education Programs
World War I Newspapers and Critical Thinking

Directions: Use the documents below and information you have learned so far to answer the following questions. Each document dates from 1914 and is from the American newspaper The Virginian-Pilot.

1. The war began in August 1914. The newspaper headlines below are from mid-August to early September 1914. Based on these documents how long do you think the war will last? What led you to your conclusion?

---

烧毁的工厂和
燃烧的地球
标记
前进
德国人

难民从奥斯坦德描述战争的破坏和恐怖，沿路到达维斯

曾经自豪的城市现在是
成千上万的居民躺在
所有地方
他们的
胸膛被子弹

作为德国军队
逼近
巴黎，法国军事
领导人
为
围攻

审查制度阻止
详细报道
事件
“前线”
到达
焦虑的公共

巴黎银行

搬到
波尔多

President Poincare and Cabinet

抵达海岸
德国人

炮击

巴黎几乎在黑暗中

巴黎，Aug. 31, 11:30 p.m.—Another German aeroplane flew over Paris late today but did no damage.

The Temps says on the subject of aeroplane raids over Paris:

“Paris will know how to reply by silent stoicism and calm

reason to the effort at intimidation by which the Germans are

attempting to stir the capital that they know is impressive,

but of whose unyielding resources of patience and will they do

not know.”

It is believed that while the French are progressing on the

right in Lorraine, the Germans are gaining ground on the left

with the result that there have been rumors and a pronounced

exodus from the capital, particularly to the south. The

d’Orsay station was besieged all night by a large but orderly

crowd. The sale of tickets was suspended at an early hour, as

all space in the trains for tomorrow was taken. Hundreds of

persons remained at the station, however, in order to be in line

for the following day.

As a precaution against the German raiding aeroplanes,

all the electric lights which have made the Champs Elysee and

the boulevards brilliant, have been extinguished.
---
2. The headlines below are from mid to late September 1914. Do these headlines change your answers from question 1? Why or why not? What led you to your answer?
3. At the start of the war, a famous German scholar named Max Weber declared: “regardless of outcome, this war is great and wonderful.” How has warfare changed in terms of technology? Is this truly a “great and wonderful war” as stated by Weber? What led you to your conclusion?
Critical Thinking Continued...

4. Based on all the headlines above and information you have learned so far, what impact will the war have on the lives of Europeans? Why do you think the war will have this impact?

5. The headlines above come from American or Allied sources. How does this impact the way the war is presented to the public?

6. What role do you think the United States will play in the war? Do you think the United States will get involved? And if so, why?