

## CHC 2P – Canadian History Since World War I

### Project Choice #1 – Journals from the Front

**Your mission:** Imagine that you are a general, a nurse, or a soldier on the Western Front in WWI. Write a journal entry that depicts what life was like on the front during the war.

#### **Your tasks:**

##### **1 – Complete the Historical Character Profile Worksheet**

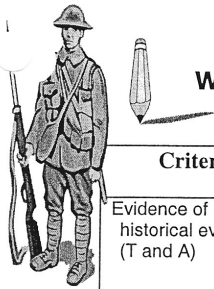
- complete the **Historical Character Profile** worksheet to help you decide the character you want to be and the details of your character's life
- refer to this completed profile when writing your journal entry
- your character and some specific details can be made up, but it must fit with the historical context of 1914–1918

##### **2 – Write a Journal Entry**

- write a journal entry based on the profile you developed
- your entry should be at least **one page typed and double-spaced**
- use historical terms and information from your notes to add historical realism, depth, and interest to your writing
- use the **Writing in Role** rubric as a guide

#### **Useful Vocabulary:**

trench	mud	machine gun	lice
dug out	flies	rats	smell
no man's land	gas	gas mask	rifle
barbed wire	rations	bombing	trench foot
disease	boredom	hunger	stench
horrific	wet	hopeless	cold



BLM 1.13e

## Writing in Role– Letter from the Trenches– World War I

Criteria	Level 1 (50 - 59 %)	Level 2 (60 - 69 %)	Level 3 (70 - 79 %)	Level 4 (80 - 100 %)
Evidence of historical evidence (T and A)	- limited evidence of analysis (e.g., cause-effect relationships) displayed	- some evidence of analysis of situation shown with a mix of personal and historical detail	- evidence of analysis shown and the reader/listener can distinguish between historical and personal details presented	- arguments presented balance personal and historical details and analysis clearly to the reader/listener
Understanding of historical context (K/U)	- references are contemporary; role not clearly set in past	- some evidence that role is in an historical context	- role clearly viewed as being part of a particular time and place with considerable knowledge of topic	- role consistently viewed as being part of a particular time and place using rich detail to describe historical context
Assumption of role (C and A)	- limited attempt to be in role	- attempt to be in role clearly seen, though the role-taking may not be consistent	- role-taking is consistent	- role-taking is consistent and personal so that the reader/listener feel "transported back in time"
Organization of diary entry (C)	- limited effort to organize so that communication lacks coherence	- some organization shown with conventions of speech and writing are observed at least some of the time	- organization shown with conventions of speech and writing are observed most of the time	- organization is clear and conventions of oral and written communication consistently observed
Persuasiveness (C and A)	- little sense of audience shown, little impact	- some sense of audience shown with some impact	- product has impact on audience	- product engages audience and is believable

**Comments– strengths, weakness and next steps:**

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The following rubric, adapted from *The Essentials Project*, Toronto District School Board, deals with written role-taking for purposes of an empathetic reconstruction of the past. Rubrics which involve role-playing primarily for dramatic or literary purposes would have some but not all of the criteria used in this rubric.

## **World War One Assignment: Journals from the Front**

### **Historical Character Profile Sheet**

Use this profile to organize your ideas for your journals. Write a response for each question. Add as much detail as possible because it will help you with your journal writing.



1. What is your complete name?
2. Where was your home before the war?
3. Who are your family members? (eg. Mom, Dad, siblings, husband, wife, etc.)
4. What did you do before the war? (go to school, work, etc.)
5. In what year(s) are you writing?
6. Where are you in Europe?
7. What is your job in the war? (infantry, general, nurse, doctor, etc.)
8. Outline your job description.

9. Outline your daily routine.

10. Who are some of your friends or coworkers?

11. Why are you writing a journal? Has there been a significant event(s) in the war that you are writing about?

12. What are your plans for the future? Where do you see yourself 10 years from now?

