



Sedition in WWI (11.4.5)

Background:

As the United States entered into World War I not all of its people were in support of the country's involvement. Subsequently, Congress passed the Espionage Act (1917) which aimed to prevent people from disrupting the recruitment of soldiers and prevent people from supporting the nation's enemies. In 1918, Congress passed the Sedition Act which expanded on the Espionage Act effectively making it illegal to talk negatively about the government and the war effort. Many Americans were arrested and jailed under these laws and some were even deported and stripped of their citizenship.

Prompt:

Were critics of the First World War anti-American?

Task:

In a well thought out essay:

- Write a claim in response to the prompt.
- Support your claim by using at least four pieces of evidence and background reading.
- Be sure to explain how the evidence you have chosen supports your claim
- Incorporate an additional piece of evidence that argues against your claim and use your evidence to counter that opposing claim.