**Effects of War**

**Subject area/course**: English/Language Arts, English Literature

**Grade level/band**: 11–12

**STUDENT PROMPT SECTION**

1. **Task context**:

Although the First World War ended nearly 100 years ago, many of the experiences are still relevant to today’s society and today’s military. In this task you will choose a topic about the effects of war, such as the physical or psychological effects of war on soldiers, the psychological effects of war on support personnel (medical, etc.), perceptions of patriotism, perceptions of the enemy, etc. Feel free to develop your own topics. Find two or three poems that the class has not previously studied that address the topic you have chosen. For this assignment, you will be interpreting and using the information from these texts to draw conclusions that you will compare and contrast to a contemporary situation.

Plan and draft a paper showing the information you have gathered about your topic from the poems with a preliminary conclusion based on the evidence. The conclusion is *your* idea of what the information means; however, it must be based on the evidence. You will need to do some research for factual information. *Example: You read Wilfred Owen’s “Dulce et Decorum* Est*.” A possible topic could be the physical effect of gas during World War I. You would research historical information about when and how gas was used, and then you would draw your own conclusions on the use of gas.*

The issues and topic you discover likely will be applicable to more than just World War I. After researching your topic, seek out information about a related issue in contemporary wartime. For this, you will need to find an account by a British military person who has been or is in combat (or a noncombat role with wartime experience). Using the evidence from the contemporary source, compare and contrast the effects of wars that are nearly 100 years apart. Revise your paper and conclusions in light of your most recent research. What is your opinion now about your topic? Have things changed? How is this topic relevant to today’s military?

1. **The task**:

Your paper will focus on the essential question of: What are the effects of war on combatants and others? You will use a variety of resources to answer this question, including two or three poems of your choice about the British experience in World War I and researched articles about a topic that you choose. In order to make comparisons with modern events and draw further conclusions, research and read about current British military or noncombatant experiences. Write a 3- to 4-page paper that explains one of the effects of war in depth. What inferences and conclusions can you draw from the texts you have read?

Your paper should:

* Go through all stages of the writing process.
* Include a thesis that addresses the prompt.
* Support your conclusion with clearly explained evidence.
* Use appropriate grammar, spelling, and mechanics when writing.
* Cite your sources correctly in the text of your paper and create a Works Cited page using MLA format or another style that your instructor selects.
* Employ standard American academic English.

1. **Materials/resources:**

* **“The First World War Poetry Digital Archive,”** <http://www.oucs.ox.ac.uk/ww1lit>
* Access to the Internet and library for research
* Word processing software

1. **Time requirements:**

The entire project should take about three weeks. Your teacher will give you more details, but the following *could be* a rough outline of your work plan.

* Week 1: Choose your topic and poems, and draft a plan for your paper.
* Week 2: Bring a working draft of your paper to class. Turn in a solid draft to your teacher by the end of the week.
* Incorporate edits to your paper and follow your teacher’s timeline to turn in your final draft.