April 2, 1917

Gentlemen of the Congress: I have called the Congress into extraordinary session because there are serious, very serious, choices of policy to be made, and made immediately, which it was neither right nor constitutionally permissible that I should assume the responsibility of making.

On the 3rd of February last I officially laid before you the extraordinary announcement of the Imperial German Government that on and after the 1st day of February it was its purpose to put aside all restraints of law or of humanity and use its submarines to sink every vessel that sought to approach either the ports of Great Britain and Ireland or the western coasts of Europe or any of the ports controlled by the enemies of Germany within the Mediterranean.…

It is a war against all nations. American ships have been sunk, American lives taken, in ways which it has stirred us very deeply to learn of, but the ships and people of other neutral and friendly nations have been sunk and overwhelmed in the waters in the same way. There has been no discrimination. The challenge is to all mankind. Each nation must decide for itself how it will meet it. The choice we make for ourselves must be made with a moderation of counsel and a temperateness of judgment befitting our character and our motives as a nation. We must put excited feeling away. Our motive will not be revenge or the victorious assertion of the physical might of the nation, but only the vindication of right, of human right, of which we are only a single champion.…

With a profound sense of the solemn and even tragical character of the step I am taking and of the grave responsibilities which it involves, but in unhesitating obedience to what I deem my constitutional duty, I advise that the Congress declare the recent course of the Imperial German Government to be in fact nothing less than war against the Government and people of the United States; that it formally accept the status of belligerent which has thus been thrust upon it, and that it take immediate steps not only to put the country in a more thorough state of defense but also to exert all its power and employ all its resources to bring the Government of the German Empire to terms and end the war.

What this will involve is clear. It will involve the utmost practicable cooperation in counsel and action with the governments now at war with Germany, and, as incident to that, the extension to those governments of the most liberal financial credits, in order that our resources may so far as possible be added to theirs. It will involve the organization and mobilization of all the material resources of the country to supply the materials of war and serve the incidental needs of the nation in the most abundant and yet the most economical and efficient way possible. It will involve the immediate full equipment of the Navy in all respects but particularly in supplying it with the best means of dealing with the enemy's submarines. It will involve the immediate addition to the armed forces of the United States already provided for by law in case of war at least 500,000 men, who should, in my opinion, be chosen upon the principle of universal liability to service, and also the authorization of subsequent additional increments of equal force so soon as they may be needed and can be handled in training.…

Neutrality is no longer feasible or desirable where the peace of the world is involved and the freedom of its peoples, and the menace to that peace and freedom lies in the existence of autocratic governments backed by organized force which is controlled wholly by their will, not by the will of their people. We have seen the last of neutrality in such circumstances. We are at the beginning of an age in which it will be insisted that the same standards of conduct and of responsibility for wrong done shall be observed among nations and their governments that are observed among the individual citizens of civilized states.
We have no quarrel with the German people. We have no feeling towards them but one of sympathy and friendship. It was not upon their impulse that their Government acted in entering this war. It was not with their previous knowledge or approval. It was a war determined upon as wars used to be determined upon in the old, unhappy days when peoples were nowhere consulted by their rulers and wars were provoked and waged in the interest of dynasties or of little groups of ambitious men who were accustomed to use their fellow men as pawns and tools. Self-governed nations do not fill their neighbor states with spies or set the course of intrigue to bring about some critical posture of affairs, which will give them an opportunity to strike and make conquest...

It is a distressing and oppressive duty, gentlemen of the Congress, which I have performed in thus addressing you. There are, it may be, many months of fiery trial and sacrifice ahead of us. It is a fearful thing to lead this great peaceful people into war, into the most terrible and disastrous of all wars, civilization itself seeming to be in the balance. But the right is more precious than peace, and we shall fight for the things which we have always carried nearest our hearts—for democracy, for the right of those who submit to authority to have a voice in their own governments, for the rights and liberties of small nations, for a universal dominion of right by such a concert of free peoples as shall bring peace and safety to all nations and make the world itself at last free. To such a task we can dedicate our lives and our fortunes, everything that we are and everything that we have, with the pride of those who know that the day has come when America is privileged to spend her blood and her might for the principles that gave her birth and happiness and the peace which she has treasured. God helping her, she can do no other.

1. How does President Wilson build his argument and persuade his listeners in "War Message to Congress"?
   a. He uses positive words to describe the enemy.
   b. He cites published works to support his view.
   c. He uses confident and powerful words.
   d. He tells a personal story that relates to the topic.

2. What is the purpose of President Woodrow Wilson’s speech "War Message to Congress"?
   a. to compare the current war to other wars that were fought against Germany
   b. to persuade Congress that the nation should enter the war against Germany
   c. to inform Congress about the problems happening overseas
   d. to explain an internal conflict among the people of the United States

3. Read the excerpt from President Woodrow Wilson’s speech, “War Message to Congress.”

   It is a war against all nations. American ships have been sunk, American lives taken, in ways which it has stirred us very deeply to learn of, but the ships and people of other neutral and friendly nations have been sunk and overwhelmed in the waters in the same way. There has been no discrimination.

   Which emotion is President Wilson most likely trying to evoke in his listeners?
   a. sadness
   b. pity
   c. trust
   d. remorse
4. Read the excerpt from President Woodrow Wilson’s speech, “War Message to Congress.”

It is a fearful thing to lead this great peaceful people into war, into the most terrible and disastrous of all wars.

Based on the excerpt, what can be said about President Wilson’s character?

a. He has no regrets about his political views.
b. He is comfortable in his decisions.
c. He is courageous and ready to go to war.
d. He has pride in the nation’s people.

5. Read the excerpt from President Woodrow Wilson’s speech, “War Message to Congress.”

With a profound sense of the solemn and even tragical character of the step I am taking and of the grave responsibilities which it involves, but in unhesitating obedience to what I deem my constitutional duty . . .

Which best expresses the type of appeal in this excerpt?

a. pathos, an appeal based on emotions
b. logos, an appeal based on logic or reason
c. ethos, an appeal based on the speaker’s character
d. financial, an appeal based on the audience’s finances

6. Read the excerpt from President Woodrow Wilson’s speech, “War Message to Congress.”

On the 3d of February last I officially laid before you the extraordinary announcement of the Imperial German Government that on and after the 1st day of February it was its purpose to put aside all restraints of law or of humanity and use its submarines to sink every vessel that sought to approach either the ports of Great Britain and Ireland or the western coasts of Europe or any of the ports controlled by the enemies of Germany within the Mediterranean.

To appeal to the audience, this part of the speech mostly relies on

a. ethos, an appeal based on the speaker’s character.
b. logos, an appeal based on logic or reason.
c. pathos, an appeal based on emotion.
d. force, an appeal based on the audience’s fear of harm.

7. In the first and second paragraphs of “War Message to Congress,” how does Wilson establish pathos, an appeal based on emotions?

a. He says to “put excited feelings away.”
b. He references his title and position.
c. He talks about the US lives lost.
d. He cites facts about the German aim.
Practice with Interpreting Charts & Graphs

Look at the information in this bar graph for questions 8 & 9.

8. Based on this graph, what conclusion can someone draw?
   a. Voters were not interested in the issues in 2008.
   b. 2008 and 2012 were presidential election years.
   c. The majority of Americans vote in every election.
   d. Women boycotted the polls in 2010.

9. Which would be the best title for this graph?
   a. Voter Turnout, 2006-2012
   b. Presidential Winners and Losers
   c. Presidential Election Years, 2006-2012
   d. Number of US Voters

Look at the bar graph, which shows voter turnout in one election year, to answer questions 10 & 11.

10. Which is the best conclusion someone can draw from this graph?
    a. All income groups vote at roughly the same percentage.
    b. The less one earns, the less likely one is to vote.
    c. Middle-income people vote at higher rates than other Americans.
    d. Income has very little to do with voter turnout.
11. Which would be the **best** title for this graph?
   a.  The Race for President, 2008
   b.  Voter Turnout, 2008-2012
   c.  Percentage of Voting, 2008-2012
   d.  Voter Turnout by Income Group, 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Percent Supporting Obama</th>
<th>Percent Supporting Romney</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

12. Look at the statistics in the table. Which generalization is **most** accurate, based on the table?
   a.  Women are more likely than men to support Democrats.
   b.  Women are more likely than men to support Republicans.
   c.  Men voted in higher numbers than women.
   d.  Men are more likely than women to support Democrats.

13. Look at the bar graph. What is the **best** conclusion that someone can draw about the youth vote in recent presidential elections?
   a.  The same number of youth voted in 2008 as in 2012.
   b.  Most young voters favor Republican candidates.
   c.  Most young voters favor Democratic candidates.
   d.  Young voters represent most of the electorate.
14. Look at this graph, showing funding for campaigns for election to the House of Representatives, 2011–2012. What is the most logical conclusion that can be drawn from this graph?

a. Both parties are dependent on raising huge sums of money to fund their House campaigns.
b. PAC spending is not a significant factor when it comes to raising money for House campaigns.
c. The Democrats will always raise more money for House campaigns from individuals than the Republicans will.
d. Campaign funding laws have reduced the amount of money needed to fund House campaigns.

The graph shows choice of party affiliation.

15. Based on this graph, which percentage of poll respondents were Democrats in November 2012?

a. 25 percent
b. 30 percent
c. 35 percent
d. 40 percent