Propaganda

Persuasive language is used in propaganda, as the propagandist tries to convince and persuade the audience of their viewpoint or idea.

TECHNIQUES USED IN PROPAGANDA:

Name-calling: Negative names are used for the ‘enemy’ or opposition, so that the audience has an emotional response to them and are immediately biased against them.

Generalities: Linking positive, general, and commonly accepted words (“love,” “family,” “democracy”) with a person, group, or cause to make an audience approve without careful consideration.

Euphemisms: Substituting words or phrases with softer, ‘nicer’ ones to create a more positive response or to mislead intentionally (“senior citizen” for “old person,” “collateral damage” for “civilian casualties”).

Appeal to celebrity /authority: using well-known personalities to endorse a person, group, or cause. /An appeal to a ‘higher authority’ to back up the point.

Plain folks/Camaraderie: Trying to convince an audience that someone is “one of them”—this helps to convince the audience that they ‘know how they feel’, even if they do not.

Bandwagon: Claiming that an audience should do something because “everybody else is doing it”—this plays on people’s fear of being left out.

Fear: Warning an audience that something horrible will happen to them if they don’t take certain action.

Hyperbole: An exaggeration, or exaggerated statement to make a point (‘never’/’always’).

How many propaganda techniques can you find used in the following World War 1 posters? Identify and explain how the technique is used in each of the following. You must find at least one in each.

1. Technique used - How?

   Is it effective? Why or why not?

2. Technique used - How?

   Is it effective? Why or why not?

3. Technique used - How?

   Is it effective? Why or why not?

4. Technique used - How?

   Is it effective? Why or why not?

5. Technique used - How?

   Is it effective? Why or why not?