

Grade Level: 7+

Time: One 45 min. class period

Who is Looking Through the Eye of the Camera?

Objectives:

Student will recognize the affect the media has in forming public opinion.

Students will discover ways they can become more skilled in making their own judgments.

Key Terms:

Propaganda - n. information, ideas, or rumors deliberately spread to help or harm a person, group, movement, institution, nation, etc.

Fuhrer - n. Self-given name of Hitler, inferring authority, power and deity

Materials:

Photographs of Adolph Hitler inspecting his Youth during WWII
<http://bbs.napolun.com/viewthread.php?tid=23310> (view photo number 71; photos number 58 and 68 may be used also);

Activities/Procedure:

How does the media's selection of materials affect public opinion?

Could the media control public opinion based on the selection of materials used in newspaper, television, internet reporting?

Show the photograph of Hitler. Explain the first picture was taken during WWII. Hitler is walking past young soldiers who have been brought into his Hitler Youth, some as young as seven years old. They are acknowledging Hitler with the "Heil Hitler" salutation as they raise their arms with respect for their *Fuhrer*.

Examine the photo. What do you notice? (Other officers, most of the boys are smiling, one boy on the right looks confused.)

How could this picture be a pro-Hitler statement?

How could this picture be an anti-Hitler statement?

Discuss the meaning of the word *propaganda*. Could the media selection of photos, stories, etc., be a form of propaganda?

Reiterate the fact that the propaganda is not always negative; it can be used for a positive reason. (Example: a medical advertisement supporting the need for young children to be inoculated for childhood diseases.)

As part of the public, how can we examine the media's materials so we can judge for ourselves? How do we "read between the lines?"

Reflect on the original questions:

- How does the media's selection of materials affect public opinion?
- Could the media control public opinion based on the selection of materials used in newspaper, television, internet reporting?

Evidence of Understanding:

Based on class participation

Extension Activities:

Students should collect photographs from recent newspapers, internet news, etc. Study the photographs and determine the objective of the newsman/woman. Could the selection be a form of propaganda? Why or why not?

Study advertising as a form of propaganda. Bring in advertisements and investigate their claims, appeals and techniques. How is the consumer affected by the advertising?

See PROPAGANDA Bibliography

Check out website: <http://www.USHMM.org> *State of Deception*

Available worksheet analysis for photographs can be found at

http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/worksheets/photo_analysis/work.pdf