

# FIRST WORLD WAR *in colour*

## COMPASS POINTS

A century after the First World War, it can be difficult for students to truly appreciate the experiences of the people involved in that devastating conflict. Looking at old photographs can play an important role in helping students learn, understand, and connect with an event that happened a hundred years ago, but those black and white photographs can also be difficult to relate to. Adding colour to the photographs arguably helps us to better imagine life at the time, and to connect with the subject matter. These colourizations are meant to enhance the black and white photos – not replace them. However, colourizing photographs, by necessity, requires the alteration of primary source documents. While all attempts are made to be as historically accurate as possible, there is no doubt that the photographs are changed.

1. Have your students consider the process of colourizing photographs from different angles - or “directions” - by filling in the compass below.
2. We recommend that students complete it in the following order:
  - ‘E’xcitements,
  - ‘W’orries,
  - ‘N’eeds,
  - ‘S’tance.
3. It is recommended that students also read Mark Truelove’s explanation about the [colourization process](#) and view some of the colourized photographs on the Vimy Foundation [website](#). This activity can be completed both before and after viewing the photographs to see if their opinions change.

### BONUS

After completing their compasses, have students form into groups based on their *stance*; are they for, against, or unsure about the colourization process? Have each team justify their opinion to the rest of the class.



L: Library and Archives Canada / PA - 000740  
R: Library and Archives Canada / PA - 000740 (modified from the original)

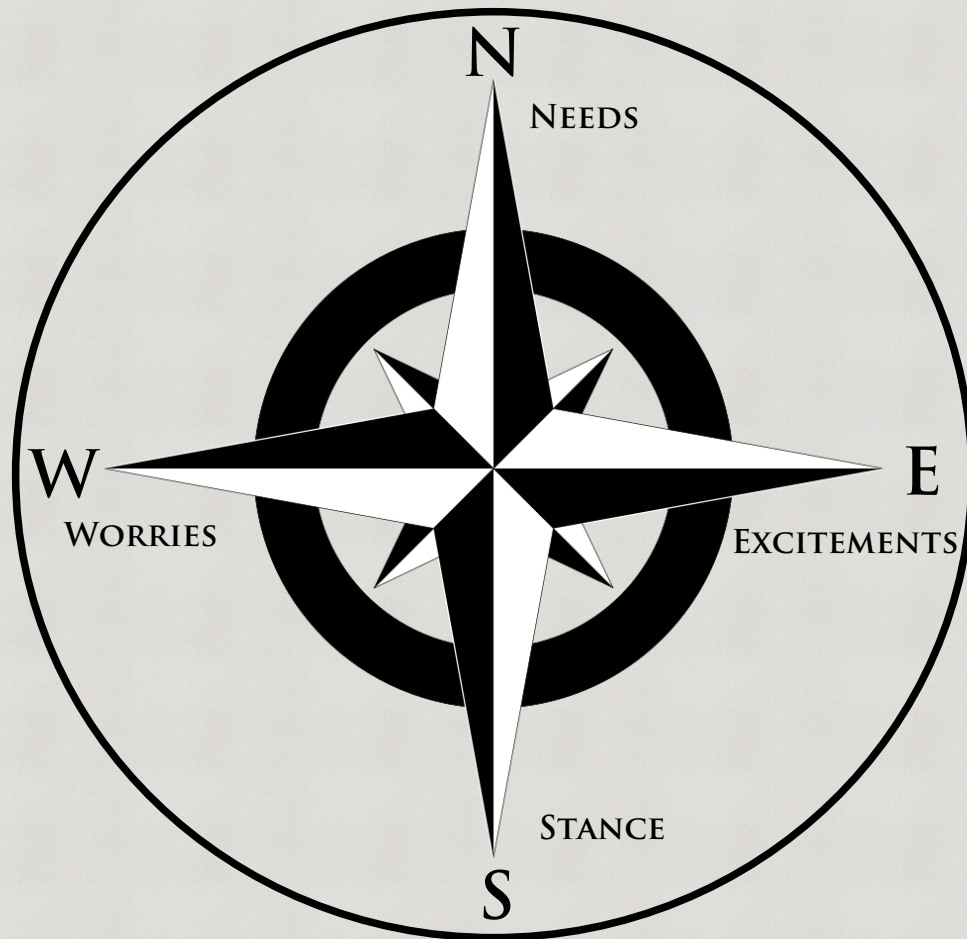


Credit for basic framework of thinking routine: *Making Thinking Visible* by Ritchhart, Church and Morrison



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## Excitements

What excites you about this process? What are the benefits?

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## Worries

What worries you about this process? What are the downsides?

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## Needs

What else do you think you need to know about this process?

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## Stance

What is your stance on this process?

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