

Creative Writing: Lenin's Appeal to the Russian People

Directions:

Write a short creative piece explaining why you like Lenin and communism from the point of view of a typical Russian person living in 1917. You will be assigned a role as a Russian soldier, peasant, or factory worker, and provided basic information about that person's life. Write your response from that person's point of view.

Requirements:

Include the following in your paper.

1. Identify yourself and describe your life in Russia.
2. Explain the reasons you like Lenin using specific ideas or examples to support your response.
3. Explain why communism appeals to you using specific ideas or examples to support your response.

Your paper should be approximately one-page in length and include detailed factual information drawn from our study of the Russian Revolution.

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RUSSIAN FACTORY WORKER

- Works 15-19 hours per day.
- Poor living conditions (no running water; pollution).
- Mass starvation in cities; food riots.
- Factory boss is cruel and unsympathetic.
- Low wages; dangerous working conditions.
- When you peacefully strike Czar Nicholas II orders troops to fire upon you instead of helping you. (Remember "Bloody Sunday"!)

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RUSSIAN SOLDIER

- Millions of your fellow soldiers have died in the war.
- Very few weapons – the generals told you to scavenge your guns from the dead soldiers in the battlefield.
- Little or no food.
- No pay.
- You won battles at the beginning of the war, but now the Germans are pushing you back.
- Czar Nicholas II took control of the military and promised victory, but all you see is death.

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RUSSIAN PEASANT

- You are extremely poor and work all day just to survive.
- Many family members, neighbors, and friends have died of disease and starvation.
- Poor living conditions (no heat or running water).
- You pay high taxes to the government and the wealthy nobility.
- You have no opportunity to improve your place in life.
- Czar Nicholas II and the nobility accuse you of being lazy and disloyal.

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