

Assignment: "Remember the Maine!" – Yellow Journalism Project

Objective:

Use the techniques of **yellow journalism** to create a newspaper article or headline that either:

- **Blames Spain** for the sinking of the USS *Maine* (pro-war)
- **Argues Spain was not responsible** and calls for peace (anti-war)

Background:

In February 1898, the USS *Maine* exploded in Havana Harbor, killing more than 260 sailors. No one knew what caused the explosion, but newspapers like *The New York Journal* and *The World* printed sensational, emotional stories blaming Spain, which pushed the U.S. closer to war.

This assignment challenges you to "be the reporter" and create a piece of yellow journalism that could have influenced the American public in 1898.

Instructions:

1. Choose Your Side:

- **Pro-War:** Convince readers that Spain deliberately destroyed the USS *Maine* and the U.S. must act!
- **Anti-War:** Argue that there's not enough proof Spain is guilty, and call for patience and diplomacy.

2. Create Your Piece: (PARAGRAPHS are 5-7 sentences and well structured)

You may write one of the following (choose one):

- **Front-Page Newspaper Article** (at 1-2 paragraphs)
- **Sensational Headline with Illustration** (poster w/ a paragraph)
- **Editorial** (persuasive opinion piece, 1-2 paragraphs)

3. Use Yellow Journalism Techniques:

- **Bold, dramatic headlines** (ex: "BLOOD ON SPAIN'S HANDS!")
- **Emotional, exaggerated language**
- **Images or sketches** (realistic or exaggerated)
- **Appeal to readers' emotions** (anger, sympathy, patriotism)

4. Include These Details:

- What happened to the USS *Maine*
- Who you think is responsible
- What action the United States should take next (war, peace talks, etc.)