Jim Berkey  
Writing 20.09 and 20.16  
Writing War  
Project Title: Soldiers in the Archives

For our second project, students worked with materials in the David Rubenstein Rare Book and Manuscript Library. In small groups, students examined letters, diaries, scrapbooks, and more from the American Civil War, World War I, and World War II. Students loved working with these materials and drafted letters to their peers, parents, grandparents, and siblings to share this experience. Expressing a sentiment shared by many of her peers, one student wrote, “my favorite letter so far is one that he wrote on October 19, 1861 (Yes, I held a 150 year old document in my hands!).” Others expressed their “newfound appreciation for primary sources.” Our project ended with a series of visually-impressive, analytically-rich group presentations in the Rare Book Room during Parents’ Weekend.

Attached are some images and photographs from the presentations.
Stephen Rathaway
Union Army
14th Rgt. MA Volunteers, 36th US Colored Troops

"If Lincoln didn't make it to Heaven, not many people will get there." — May 11, 1865

"I went into that great battle that you speak of and came out all right and covered with glory" — March 31, 1865

Perceptions in World War II
Jesse De Luca, Zhou Fang, Gregory LaHood, and Lauren McAlister
• Cole argues that enchantment and disenchantment of war are largely based on the symbolization of blood and body.

• We find her analysis lacking: when at war, witnesses with different gender use different symbols and language to express their enchantment or disenchantment with war.