



MIDTERM: THE ROLE OF INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM IN EXPOSING INJUSTICE

The early 20th century was an era of business expansion and progressive reform in the United States. The progressives, as they called themselves, worked to make American society a better and safer place in which to live. They tried to make big business more responsible through regulations of various kinds. They worked to clean up corrupt city governments, to improve working conditions in factories, and to better living conditions for those who lived in slum areas, a large number of whom were recent immigrants from Southern and Eastern Europe. Many progressives were also concerned with the environment and conservation of resources. This generation of Americans also hoped to make the world a more democratic place. At home, this meant expanding the right to vote to women and a number of election reforms such as the recall, referendum, and direct election of Senators. Abroad, it meant trying to make the world safe for democracy.



At the core of the movement were journalists who sought to expose the truth to the American public:

- Children were forced to work long hours in factories for little pay.
- Immigrants lived in overcrowded, disease-infested tenements.
- Factories had no safety regulations.
- Food was not inspected.
- State and local governments were led by corrupt officials.
- Monopolies ruled the markets at the expense of the consumer.

Their investigative style became known as **MUCKRAKING**. In this research activity, you will learn about several of these reporters and examine the injustices they uncovered:

- William G. Shepherd, The Triangle Factory Fire
- Jacob Riis, Tenement Housing
- Upton Sinclair, Public Health (Meat Packing Industry)
- Ida Tarbell, Corruption of Big Business
- John Spargo, Child Labor
- Lincoln Steffens, Corruption of Political Officials

When you have completed your research, write a 2-3 page, **SINGLE-SPACED** essay (approximately 1000-1500 words) responding to the following reflection question: *“How did Americans address the social, economic, and political problems that surfaced as a result of the industrial revolution? Which movement of the Progressive Era has had the most positive and lasting impact on society? How can the lessons of the Progressive Era be applied to the United States in the 21st century? Explain your answer.”* Your essay should include:

- A thesis statement and supporting arguments
- A paragraph about the social, economic, and political problems that resulted from the industrial revolution
- A paragraph about the muckrakers themselves (e.g., their middle class origins, education, and professional experience)
- A paragraph about the injustices or corruption the journalists uncovered
- A paragraph summarizing the articles, books, or photographic studies that exposed the injustices or corruption
- The reforms that resulted from these exposés
- A paragraph about the value of investigative reporting in the Progressive Era, its impact on society, and evidence of its lasting results.
- A conclusion about how the lessons of the Progressive Era can be applied to the United States in the 21st century
- A Works Cited section in which you list the title and URL for online resources and use the MLA method for printed sources. (See <http://easybib.com> for a free online citation maker.)

RESEARCH MATERIALS

These resources will help you with your research. You need not consult them all and you are encouraged to locate other sources. However, be certain to use the [Guidelines for Source Analysis](#) to insure that your sources are reliable, credible, and objective:

GENERAL SOURCES

- Teddy Roosevelt and the Progressive Era
<http://historicaltextarchive.com/sections.php?action=read&artid=598>
- Muckraking
<http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/Jmuckraking.htm>
- Cities During the Progressive Era
<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/presentationsandactivities/presentations/timeline/progress/cities/cities.html>
- Conservation in the Progressive Era
<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/presentationsandactivities/presentations/timeline/progress/conservation/conservation.html>
- Immigrants in the Progressive Era
<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/presentationsandactivities/presentations/timeline/progress/immigration/immigration.html>

WILLIAM G. SHEPHERD, TRIANGLE FACTORY FIRE

- Triangle Factory Fire
<http://www.ilr.cornell.edu/trianglefire/>
- Eyewitness at the Triangle
http://www.ilr.cornell.edu/trianglefire/texts/stein_ootss/ootss_wgs.html?location=Fire!
- The Triangle Fire
http://newdeal.feri.org/library/d_4m.htm
- The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire
<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=1416870>
- Photos From The Triangle Factory Fire
<http://teaching.arts.usyd.edu.au/history/hsty3080/3rdYr3080/trianglewebsite/>
- Photo Gallery Triangle Factory
http://newdeal.feri.org/library/d_4m.htm

JACOB RIIS, TENEMENT HOUSING

- Jacob Riis
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/1900/peopleevents/pandell.html>
- How the Other Half Lives
<http://www.bartelby.com/208/>
- The Jews of New York
<http://tenant.net/Community/LES/jacob4.html>
- Jacob Riis Photographs
<http://www.masters-of-photography.com/R/riis/riis.html>
- Urban Castles: Tenement Housing and Landlord Activism in New York City, 1890-1943m
http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m2005/is_4_34/ai_76713062
- Health, Morality, and Housing: The "Tenement Problem" in Chicago
<http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov/articlerender.fcgi?artid=1447986>

UPTON SINCLAIR, PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT PACKING INDUSTRY)

- Upton Sinclair
<http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/Jupton.htm>
- The Jungle
<http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/Literature/Sinclair/TheJungle/>
- 1906: Rumble over *The Jungle*
<http://www.capitalcentury.com/1906.html>

- Meatpacking in the U.S.: Still a "Jungle" Out There?
<http://www.pbs.org/now/shows/250/meat-packing.html>
- The Chain Never Stops
<http://www.motherjones.com/news/feature/2001/07/meatpacking.html>
- What's in the Meat?
http://www.thirdworldtraveler.com/Health/What's_In_Meat_FFN.html

IDA TARBELL, CORRUPTION OF BIG BUSINESS

- Ida Tarbell
http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/rockefellers/peopleevents/p_tarbell.html
- The History of the Standard Oil Company
<http://www.history.rochester.edu/fuels/tarbell/MAIN.HTM>
- Clash of Titans: Rockefeller vs. Tarbell
http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/rockefellers/sfeature/sf_6.html
- A Journalistic Masterpiece
http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/rockefellers/sfeature/sf_7.html
- John D. Rockefeller and the Standard Oil Company
<http://www.micheloud.com/FXM/SO/rock.htm>
- The Rockefeller Archive Center
<http://racweb.rockarch.org/rockglobal/>

JOHN SPARGO, CHILD LABOR

- John Spargo
<http://encyclopedia.stateuniversity.com/pages/12193/John-Spargo.html>
- The Bitter Cry of the Children
http://books.google.com/books?id=shkVAAAAIAAJ&dq=the+bitter+cry+of+the+children&pg=PP1&ots=ZhSarEOps-&sig=hxBtMQl2jtanuDOW-AvYagYI3BI&hl=en&prev=http://www.google.com/search?sourceid=navclient&ie=UTF-8&rlz=1T4GGIH_enUS220US220&q=The+Bitter+Cry+of+the+Children&sa=X&oi=print&ct=title&oi=print&ct=title&cad=one-book-with-thumbnail#PPP2.M1
- Child Labor in America
<http://www.historyplace.com/unitedstates/childlabor/>
- Child Labor
<http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/USAchild.htm>
- Child Labor: Grace Abbott Fights to Stop Child Labor
http://www.americaslibrary.gov/jb/gilded/jb_gilded_abbott_1.html
- Child Labor in New York City Tenements
<http://www.tenant.net/Community/Les/kleec9.html>

LINCOLN STEFFENS, CORRUPTION OF POLITICAL OFFICIALS

- Lincoln Steffens
<http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/Jsteffens.htm>
- The Shame of the Cities: Steffens on Urban Blight
<http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/5732/>
- Lincoln Steffens Exposes "Tweed Days in St. Louis"
<http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/5733>
- Enemies of the Republic
http://www.cooperativeindividualism.org/steffens_enemies_of_republic.html
- Reforming Their World: Women in the Progressive Era
<http://www.nwhm.org/ProgressiveEra/introwomenprogressive.html>
- Pittsburg: A City Ashamed
<http://www.clpgh.org/exhibit/steffens.html>