

Eighth Grade U.S. History II

Muckrakers and Current Social Justice Issues Essay

Muckrakers were a group of writers, including the likes of Upton Sinclair, Lincoln Steffens, and Ida Tarbell, during the Progressive era who tried to expose the problems that existed in American society as a result of the rise of big business, urbanization, and immigration.

Your task is to discuss the following prompt in through detail:

1. Assess one specific muckraker's role in altering the government and society responding to

these questions:

- History of individual with their background and education
- Issue they got involved and what was happening that got them involved
- What article or book did he/she create?
 - How did the public respond to this?
- How did their work change society and what did it accomplish?

a. Here are the muckrakers you can select:

i. Ida Tarbell

- Exposed the ruthless tactics of the Standard Oil Company through a series of articles published in *McClure's Magazine*.

ii. Jacob Riis

- Tenement living

iii. Lincoln Steffens

- Examined political corruption in cities across the United States

iv. Thomas Nast

- Political corruption by NYC's political machine, Tammany Hall, led by Boss Tweed

v. Ida B. Wells

- Provided statistics on the lynching of African-Americans

vi. Jane Addams

- Pioneer in the field of social work who founded the settlement house movement through the establishment of **Hull House** in Chicago, Illinois.

2. Select one current social justice issue and explain how it relates to the Progressive Era.

- Racial equality
- Gun ownership
- Climate concerns
- Access to healthcare
- Immigration

*** You can select any other social justice issues that are not on the list but, you must have it approved by me.

***Research must be from a government website, .edu, a research library, Britannica, Library of Congress etc. **Research must be cited in MLA Format.**

Rubric:

Thesis statement _____/30 points	Analysis and supporting information. _____/30 points	Organized and Complete (intro, body paragraphs and conclusion) _____/25 points	Sentence Structure, Grammar, Mechanics, & Spelling _____/15 points
Thesis is clear and well developed. The thesis identifies the question and evaluates the relevance of the issue addressed in the essay prompt. 30 pts	Essay uses relevant information and facts to effectively defend the thesis. 30 pts	Essay contains all necessary parts and is clearly organized with a logical structure that supports the thesis. Transitions are smooth. 25 pts	Sentences are well constructed and have varied structure and length. No errors in grammar, mechanics, and/or spelling. 15 pts
Thesis is partially developed, but only superficially addresses the significance of the issue in the essay prompt. 25 pts	Essay supports thesis with some relevant information but has limited depth of analysis. 25 pts	Essay contains most necessary parts and is organized but the structure is not consistent. Transitions are present but somewhat awkward. 15 pts	Most sentences are well constructed and have varied structure and length. Few errors in grammar, mechanics, and/or spelling. 10 pts
Thesis is underdeveloped and does not directly address the significance or relevance of the essay prompt. 10 pts	Essay has limited amount of supporting information for thesis and contains only generalizations. 10 pts	Essay is missing two or more if the necessary parts and is not well organized and structure only weakly supports the thesis. Transitions are choppy. 5 pts	Most sentences are well constructed, but they have a similar structure and/or length. Several errors in grammar, mechanics, and/or spelling. 5 pts
Thesis merely paraphrases the essay prompt or essay has no thesis. 5 pts	Contains no analysis or supporting information. 5 pts	Essay is incomplete and has no organizational structure and no transitions. 0 pts	Sentences sound awkward, are distractingly repetitive, or are difficult to understand. Numerous errors in grammar, mechanics, and/or spelling. 0 pts

Total: _____ / 100 points