

Day 96

Analyze the concerns of Progressive Era reformers and the strategies used to address these concerns in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Directions: in a paragraph for each document, use the document to answer the question and provide three pieces of outside information to support your argument

Source: Lewis Hine, National Child Labor Committee Report, 1911.

The boys working in the breaker are bent double, with little chance to relax; the air at times is dense with coal-dust, which penetrates so far into the passages of the lungs that for long periods after the boy leaves the breaker, he continues to cough up the black coal dust. Fingers are calloused and cut by the coal and slate, the noise and monotony are deadening.... While I was in the region, two breaker boys of 15 years ... fell or were carried by the coal down into the car below. One was badly burned and the other smothered to death. This was the Lee Breaker at Chauncy, Pennsylvania, January 6th, 1911. The boy who was killed was Dennis McKee.

Note: Breaker boys were often located just outside the mine next to a machine (called a breaker) where they sorted and separated the coal from slate rock.

Source: Jane Addams, "Why Women Should Vote," *Ladies Home Journal*, January, 1910.

Note: Jane Addams was the co-founder in 1889 of Hull House, a famous settlement house in Chicago.

A woman's simplest duty ... is to keep her house clean and wholesome and to feed her children properly. Yet if she lives in a tenement house, as so many of my neighbors do, she cannot fulfill these simple obligations by her own efforts because she is utterly dependent upon the city administration for the conditions which (make) decent living possible. Her basement will not be dry, her stairways will not be fireproof.... She cannot even secure untainted meat for her household ... unless the meat has been inspected by city officials....

... (If) woman would fulfill her traditional responsibility to her own children ... then she must bring herself to use the ballot.... American women need this ... to preserve the home.

Source: Upton Sinclair, *The Jungle*, Viking Press, 1905.

Note: *The Jungle* was a novel that described the conditions in the Chicago meat-packing industry.

There was never the least attention paid to what was cut up for sausage.... There would be meat that had tumbled out on the floor, in the dirt and sawdust, where the workers had tramped and spit.... There would be meat stored in great piles in rooms; and the water from leaky roofs would drip over it, and thousands of rats would race about on it. It was too dark in these storage places to see well, but a man could run his hand over these piles of meat and sweep off handfuls of the dried dung of rats. These rats were nuisances, and the packers would put poisoned bread out for them; they would die, and then rats, bread and meat would go into the hoppers together. This was no fairy story and no joke; the meat would be shoveled into carts, and the man who did the shoveling would not trouble to lift out a rat even if he saw one....

Source: Excerpt from *The Common Sense of the Milk Question* by John Spargo - a book advocating government control over the pasteurization and sale of milk in order to protect the health of babies and children (1908).

What I want to do is to place before the American public a calm and dispassionate statement of certain curable ills as a basis upon which to rest an earnest plea for action; to waken, if possible, all those dormant and neglected powers and impulses for good which need to be called into active cooperation in order that the evils may be remedied.

Source: Child Labor Photograph from Lewis Hine c. 1908



Source: George Wesley Bellows "Cliff Dwellers" 1913

