

Reaction Paper: Reform Movements

**Directions:** Your paper is to be one thousand words in length. It must use a size 12 font, standard Microsoft Word margins, and the Times New Roman font. Use a 1.5 space between lines. You must also include a Works Cited list using the MLA citation style. Your paper counts as a two test grades for the first quarter.

Plagiarism is strictly forbidden and will result in a **ZERO** grade.

**Theme: Reformers Role in American History**

**Historical Context:** Throughout the history of the United States, great progress has also been marked by corruption and injustice. Reformers made up of various individuals and groups have fought against this corruption and injustice by working to bring about social, political, and economic change.

**Task:**

Write a well-organized essay that includes an introduction, several paragraphs addressing this task, and a conclusion. Support your response with relevant facts, examples, and details. Your essay will include

- Choose **two** social, political, or economic changes that reformers fought for during the period from the late 1800's through the early 1900's and for **each**
  - \* Discuss the corruption or injustice the reformers fought against, the reformers who fought for the change and their methods of reform, and the social, political, or economic change that they helped bring about.
- Choose **two** social, political, or economic issues that are currently being discussed by the 2008 presidential candidates and for **each**
  - \* Discuss the problem as identified by each of the candidates, the change proposed by each of the candidates, and how you believe these changes will impact the United States.

Topics that you should consider for the first task are:

- The Grange and Populist Movements
- The Muckrakers, Jacob Riis, Ida Tarbell and Upton Sinclair
- The Progressives
- Political Machines and Boss Tweed
- The Sherman Antitrust Act
- Interstate Commerce Act
- Robert La Follette and the Wisconsin Idea
- Theodore Roosevelt, trustbuster
- The Women's Suffrage Movement
- Women's Christian Temperance Movement
- Prohibition

For information on the candidates' stand on issues for the second task, refer to their websites at:

<http://www.johnmccain.com/Informing/Issues>

<http://www.barackobama.com/issues>

**This paper is due Monday November 3rd, which is the Monday before the end of the marking period.**

- \* The paper must be emailed to Mr. Saccullo before class starts on Monday November 3rd.
- \* Late Papers will lose 10 points the first day and 10 points every subsequent day they are late.
  - \* Papers will not be accepted later than Friday November 7th.

## **Plagiarism:**

According to the Merriam-Webster Online dictionary, plagiarism means to steal the ideas or words of others and use them as your own. Plagiarism is **STRICTLY** forbidden and will result in a **ZERO** grade.

Plagiarism.org notes that all of the following examples count as plagiarism:

- turning in someone else's work as your own
- copying words or ideas from someone else without giving credit
- failing to put a quotation in quotation marks
- giving incorrect information about the source of a quotation
- changing words but copying the sentence structure of a source without giving credit
- copying so many words or ideas from a source that it makes up the majority of your work, whether you give credit or not (see our section on "fair use" rules)

Most cases of plagiarism can be avoided, however, by citing sources. Simply acknowledging that certain material has been borrowed, and providing your audience with the information necessary to find that source, is usually enough to prevent plagiarism.

## **Citations:**

There are several different styles for citing works in a research paper. We will use the MLA style that we discussed in class. See the following link for more information.

<http://www.liu.edu/cwis/cwp/library/workshop/citmla.htm>