Labor Reform – Why Bother?

It’s the year 1890, a New York City newspaper has printed a controversial article on labor in America. With this article, the paper discussed the issues that have been created as a result of the growing industry in the United States, and even included photographic evidence for the world to see. This article has sparked much debate amongst Progressive Reformers and robber barons alike, prompting many to write-in to the paper weighing in on their perspective of the issue. Your task is to write a letter to the editor, of the paper that published the artwork, using the point of view of either a Progressive Reformer arguing for change, or a business owner arguing against it. In your defensive argument, be sure to include how the industrial revolution and government regulation of the economy has lead to this issue, and how social justice was ultimately affected. Your letter to the editor should be written in persuasive essay format including:

1. Introductory
2. Paragraph: Supporting Detail
3. Closing Paragraph

Images: Child Labor during the Industrial Revolution

Lesson at a Glance

# Intended outcomes

Know and Understand:

VUS 8 The student will apply social science skills to the understand how the nation grew and changed from the end of Reconstruction through the early twentieth century by

e) evaluating the explaining the social and cultural impact of industrialization, including urbanization; and

f) evaluating and explaining the economic outcomes and the political, cultural and social developments of the Progressive Movement and the impact of its legislation

Do

VUS.1a: The student will demonstrate skills for historical thinking, geographical analysis, economic decision making, and responsible citizenship by

a) synthesizing evidence from artifacts and primary and secondary sources to obtain information about events in Virginia and United States history.

d) conducting arguments, using evidence from multiple sources; e) comparing and contrasting historical, cultural, economic, and political perspectives in Virginia and United States history.

f) explaining how indirect cause-and-effect relationships impact people, places, and events in Virginia and United States history.

i) identifying the rights and responsibilities of citizenship and ethical use of material and intellectual property

# II. Task Description

Utilize primary source documents to develop a letter to the editor for or against capitalism and industrialization.

# III. Evaluation Criteria

1. Choice of a perspective
2. Explain the role of industrialization on the image
3. Identify the social injustice and describe regulation
4. Composition and written expression
5. Grammar and Mechanics

## IV. Prior knowledge and instruction

1. PBA based on unit taught on Industrial Revolution and Progressive Movement
2. Experience interpreting images.
3. Experience producing a letter to an editor drawing from persuasive writing.
4. This is not a research paper

## V. Directions for teachers

1. Should take 1 to 2 class periods
2. May use computers to type
3. Prior experience with format will be necessary

VI. Possible Differentiation

Considerations for differentiating this performance assessment:

1. Accommodations should be made to reflect individual student IEPs.
2. Consideration of time, format, and product.
3. Inclusion of accommodations such as: graphic organizers, assistive technology, dictate to scribe, what is appropriate.