

American History 8 -- Mr. Ruppert  
Chapter 22 Portfolio Assignment (1 to 1.5 pages typed, plus visuals)

**YOU ARE A MODERN DAY MUCKRAKER!!! T.R. WOULD BE PROUD!!!**

**Assignment:** The progressive spirit of improvement continues in America today. Newspapers and news magazines often carry articles about problems similar to those tackled by the progressives at the turn of the century. Choose a current issue in America that calls for major reform or improvements to inform the public about. (ex: healthcare, social-security system, working conditions, drug abuse, education, homelessness, the environment, violence and guns, hate crimes, police brutality, political corruption, etc -- the choices are almost endless!!!). This can be a local, state, or national issue. Remember, the bottom line is that your ultimate goal is to improve people's lives by increasing public awareness of an important issue that we need to address.

Find one current news story which deals with this issue (could be from newspapers, magazines, internet, etc) and copy or print it out. Write an expose (investigative journalism type) letter (in muckraking style!) to President Bush which would fit well into the "Progressive Equation." It should first summarize the content from your current events article to inform the President of the serious issue at hand, then state your views on the issue, and finally, make suggestions for reform and improvement. Ask the president what view he takes? Your visuals should deal with the issue you are "muckraking" about.

Give your article an appropriate "muckraking" title (like Lincoln Steffens' "The Shame of the Cities" or Jacob Riis' "How the Other Half Lives")

**Please write emotionally, professionally, and with the "spirit of Progressiveness" we have learned about this chapter!!!**

**For instance, you may want to start your letter somewhat like this:**

Dear Mr. President,

As a "progressive" citizen who believes we must always strive to improve conditions in our fine nation, I believe it is important that you become better informed of a very serious problem that...

**Some good places to look for articles:**

**Newsweek**  
**U.S. News and World Report**  
**The New York Times**  
**www.cnn.com**

**Time**  
**The Democrat and Chronicle**  
**www.washingtonpost.com**  
**www.usatoday.com**

**This is just a start! There are so many places you can find an appropriate article. Try to find one which deals with an issue that genuinely interests you, not simply the first article you find that might be used for this assignment. Good Luck!!!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Period \_\_\_\_\_

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Chapter 22: The Progressive Era  
Portfolio Grading Rubric (50 points)

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\_\_\_\_\_ Is the article you used to write your essay included? (5 pts)  
How good a topic is the article in terms as being a solid a "muckraking issue"?

\_\_\_\_\_ Organization / Grammer / Punctuation / Spelling in your essay (5 pts)  
Is the essay of proper length?

\_\_\_\_\_ Creativity / Use of Visual Content (10 pts)  
Did you write in the "true muckraking spirit"? -- to the President?  
Did you use appropriate visual content to highlight your chosen issue?

\_\_\_\_\_ Content (25 pts)  
How well did you clearly summarize the content from your chosen article and  
clearly explain what the issue of concern is?  
Did you offer your own well thought out "2 cents" on the issue and provide  
possible ideas to solve / improve upon the issue of concern?

Additional points for assignments which exceed requirements in terms of effort and quality

\_\_\_\_\_

Final Score = \_\_\_\_\_  
50