

Modern Muckraking Assignment

Over the course of the last unit, we studied a number of muckraking journalists who made a difference in the world. Individuals like Upton Sinclair, Jane Addams and Ida B. Wells all spoke out for changes in their society.

NOW IT IS YOUR TURN TO EMBRACE THE PROGRESSIVE SPIRIT! You are an ace reporter trying to right the wrongs in the world... You believe that if only the world knew what you knew, there would be a response and action would be taken to make the situation better. YOU know what needs to be done because you are a MUCKRAKER!

YOUR ASSIGNMENT: Write an expose on an issue of your choice. Your expose should be 4-5 paragraphs in length. It can be local, national, or global in scope.

In this article you will want to have:

1. **An eye-catching headline!**
2. **Interest your readers** – a catchy lead or first paragraph is important. Don't put the reader to sleep from the start.
3. **Inform your readers about the issue** – provide statistics & quotes from authorities on your issue.
4. **Agitate your readers** – throughout the article, you do not want to appear disinterested. Instead, write with passion about this terrible blight on civilized society. Tone is very important – make a passionate plea to your readers to get them motivated to bring about a change.
5. **Be sure to convey to the reader a sense of why the issue is important and how it bears on the future.** Your presentation should guide the reader to the conclusion you want.
6. **Finally, you want to suggest a concrete remedy**, a way to fix or improve the situation you are covering.

REQUIREMENTS:

- The paper should be NO LESS than 2 full pages in length & NO MORE than 4 pages in length.
- The paper should be typed, double-spaced, in 12-point font.
- The paper must have footnotes (if you are still unsure of how to do them, please ASK!) AND a bibliography.
- The paper should incorporate *at least one* image/graphic/cartoon
- Use spell check and proofread your work.

Dates to keep in mind

Library research day	Thursday, Oct. 18 & Friday., Oct. 19
Notes check at the end of class (10 points)	Friday., Oct. 19
Outline check by the end of class (20 points)	Friday, Oct. 26 at the latest (turn it in to Google Classroom when you're done)
Peer editing in class, bring 2 copies of a completed draft of your paper for peer editing	Monday, Oct. 29
Essays due (80 points)	Wednesday, Oct. 31

Possible Topics

You are welcome to pursue a topic that is not presented here. Please discuss the topic with me prior to beginning your research!

Immigration (legal or illegal)	Racial / Ethnic Profiling (police brutality, airport regs)
Refugee crisis	Child Labor
Prison Conditions	Concussions
Sexual Abuse on college campuses	School start times / Sleep / Stress / Homework
Domestic Violence	Right to Die
World hunger/poverty (Mali, etc.)	Economic gap between the classes
Welfare	Media/body image
War Crimes / Genocide / Ethnic Cleansing (Myanmar)	Death Penalty
Human trafficking/modern day slavery	Gun Control
Cyber-Bullying/harassment in schools	Water (access to clean water, etc.)
LGBTQ issues (violence, bathrooms, health care, discrimination)	Civil Liberties / Homeland Security
Global Health Issues (AIDS , access to health care, etc.)	Professional Sports Salaries/Payrolls
Rising college costs	Paying college athletes
Obesity	Drugs (Opioids, prescription drugs, legaliz. of marijuana)
Environmental Issues (global warming, climate change, etc.)	Sweatshop labor (Nike, Ivanka Trump)
Iran (nuclear development)	N. Korea (nuclear dev., Kim Jong Un)
Human rights abuses	Child soldiers
Animal Rights / Animal testing	Mental Health Issues
Health care	Treatment of women worldwide
1st Amendment (religious intolerance, speech issues, etc)	Militarization of the Police
Working conditions (child labor, protections for migrant workers, etc.)	Veterans' Issues
Women's Rights (abortion, pay, sexual harassment, depiction in media, birth control, etc.)	

Sources for the Modern Muckraking Project

How should I research this project?

For this project, you will be using mostly online sources. It is a requirement that you use at least **THREE** sources and **TWO** of them must have originally been in “print” form, i.e., a newspaper article, a magazine article, excerpts from a book, etc. (NOT something printed out from someone’s blog or Wikipedia.) In addition, **ONE** of your resources must be from the L-S database.

How do I access the databases?

* To access the school’s database, go to www.lsrhs.net. Click on **Library** on the left side of the home page under **Quick Links**. Next, select **Research** at the top of the library page. From here, click on the link for **History**. You will see a variety of databases. (If you are working from outside the school, you can access the passwords for the databases by clicking on **Databases: Remote Access** on the library’s main page and put in your L-S computer name and password.)

One website that I *strongly* recommend you use is **CQ Researcher** (short for Congressional Quarterly Researcher.) CQ Researcher is great because you can get background information on your subject, read about the pros and cons, and get current arguments on your topic. **SIRS** (short for Social Issues Research Service) is also a great resource for many of your topics and it is organized in such a way as to be really easy to search. Other great resources: **Opposing Viewpoints (GALE)** and **U.S./World History in Context**. You can access both of these websites using the directions above.*



You may also want to use newspapers like the *Washington Post*, *New York Times* or *Boston Globe* as well. Any sources which discuss current events are valuable.

GOOD LUCK!!!

Introductory Paragraph:

Does the paper have an interesting <i>title</i> ?			
Are the first 1- 2 sentences of the introduction catchy?			
Does the introduction set the stage for the topic?			
Is the <i>thesis</i> or purpose of the paper clearly stated? (narrow, supportable, strongly stated)			
Is the thesis statement located in the first paragraph?			
Is the thesis stated in such a way as to convince the reader of the importance of their cause? (with passion)			

Content & Supporting Evidence:

Does each paragraph contain at least three pieces of <i>detailed evidence</i> ? (quotes, statistics, example, etc.)			
Is the evidence smoothly introduced and integrated into the paper?			
Is the supporting evidence explained, restated, and/or tied back to the topic for clarity?			
Does each paragraph close with a summary that links it back to the larger issues being discussed in the paper?			
Are the thesis well-developed and argued?			
Is the paper written with <i>passion</i> ?			

Concluding Paragraph:

Does the paper suggest several <i>concrete solutions</i> to the problem that the author has identified?			
Does it sum up the paper in a concise manner?			
Does it include a good assessment of the “so what?” question?			
Does it provide a sense of why the issue is important and/or how it bears on the future (i.e. significance)?			

Writing Mechanics and Communication of Ideas:

Does each body paragraph begin with a topic sentence?			
Do the body paragraphs support the topic sentences?			
Are there transitions between ideas and/or supporting details, as well as between paragraphs?			
Is it logically organized?			
Is it written clearly and concisely?			

The paper met the following requirements:

- _____ NO LESS than 2 full pages in length & NO MORE than 4 pages in length (excluding the graphic(s).)
- _____ The paper is typed, double-spaced, in 12-point font with 1-inch margins all around.
- _____ The paper has either footnotes or parenthetical citations
- _____ The paper incorporates *at least one* image/graphic/cartoon
- _____ The paper is spell checked and proofread.
- _____ The paper includes a bibliography.

Modern Muckraking Paper – Notes Sheet

*REMINDER: keep track of your sources as you go
(add source information into your notes for easier citations later)*

1. Information on the history of your issue and how it came to be a problem that we should care about.

2. Details on and an explanation of who is to blame for the problem:

3. Statistics and facts about your issue (number of people impacted, quotes from authorities on your issue, etc.) – THIS SHOULD BE YOUR MOST DETAILED SECTION (this will ultimately be 2 body paragraphs in your paper so be detailed and thorough.)

4. Possible solutions to the problem (both big ideas & specific actions govt./people can take to fix it)