The Human Face of the Great Depression

I. Initial Impact
   a. Many factories cut back on production and some just closed their doors.
   b. More than 4 million Americans were out of work in 1930. By 1932 that number had increased to 12 million.
   c. Unemployment caused rates of eviction and foreclosure to soar. More than 200,000 people were evicted in NYC in 1930.

II. Impact on Various Social Classes
   a. THE RICH
      i. Those who invested heavily in the stock market lost everything. Some were able to remain millionaires by selling short as the market went down (Joseph Kennedy).
      ii. Many rich people began to hoard gold and fear revolution.
   b. THE MIDDLE CLASS
      i. The 98% of Americans who did not own stock would have hardly noticed the crash; rather, the Depression meant...
      ii. Luxuries had to be given up; telephone service, for example.
   c. LOWER CLASSES
      i. For unemployed blacks and tenant farmers…
      ii. Municipal and private charity funds were quickly exhausted.
      iii. Many families could not afford to feed their children.

III. Psychological Impact
   a. Many victims tended to blame themselves.
   b. People felt ashamed that they could no longer support themselves.
      i. One man forced to stand in a breadline would bend his head low so that no one would recognize him.
      ii. This trend especially applied to men – why?
   iii. Women then bore the psychological burden on dealing with unemployed husbands, hungry children, and unpaid bills.

IV. What impact did the Depression have on the family unit? (cite 2 positive/2 negative)
V. Hoover's Shame(s)

a. Shanty towns that popped up near all large cities were called “_________________________” and the privies “_________________________.”

b. The shanty towns and the breadlines that abounded became symbols of Hoover’s presidency.

VI. Hoover’s Attitude Problem

a. Hoover approached the Depression with an attitude that many found impractical for the emotional and physical needs of the American populace at that time.

b. What was Hoover willing/unwilling to do?