





THE PROGRESSIVE ERA: THE MUCKRAKERS

HOW DO WE SOLVE PROBLEMS IN SOCIETY?

Many literary minds of the late 1800s began to consider problems faced by the poor as well as the corruption of government and large corporations. Naturally, they put their talents to work, most often using fiction based on fact, but sometimes writing straight documentaries. The term “muckrakers” was coined by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1906 in reference to their ability to uncover “muck,” or “dirt.”

Muckraker	Problem in Society	What method would you use to EXPOSE this problem?	What reform would you make to SOLVE this problem?
<p>1. Thomas Nast</p> 	<p><u>Corruption of city governments</u> In many large cities, political bosses - like Boss Tweed in New York City - controlled work done for city services like garbage collection and sewers. These bosses would help poor immigrants with their basic needs. In exchange, the bosses would tell the immigrants to vote for the politician. Many voted more than once. Also, city politicians often got their jobs based on who they knew in power rather than their qualifications.</p>		
<p>2. Ida Tarbell</p> 	<p><u>Abuses by Corporations</u> In the late 1800s and early 1900s, large corporations would often have nearly total control of an industry. Rockefeller's Standard Oil, for example, dominated about 90% of the oil refineries in the U.S., using unfair business practices and shutting out competition.</p>		

Muckraker	Problem Exposed by Muckraker	What method would you use to <u>EXPOSE</u> this problem?	What reform would you make to <u>SOLVE</u> this problem?
<p>3. Jacob Riis</p> 	<p><u>Slum Life</u> Poor city dwellers – many of whom were immigrants – lived in overcrowded apartments known as <i>tenements</i>. These tenements often had no windows, heat, or indoor plumbing. Ten people often shared a single room. With poor sanitation, diseases were common.</p>		
<p>4. Upton Sinclair</p> 	<p><u>Abuses of the Meatpacking Industry</u> Leaders of the meatpacking industry paid little attention cleanliness or sanitation. Meatpacking plants were filthy and often infested with rats. Rats and other waste would often be ground up with the meat and sold to the unknowing public.</p>		
<p>Describe a problem that affects our society TODAY and answer the same questions to the right.</p> <p><i>Modern problem:</i> _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>			