**The Progressive Era**

**Photography Project**

****

Photography emerged as a form of technology, communication, and art during the mid-1800s. By time the 20th century began, there were thousands of photographers across the United States. Photography helps to bring history alive, and therefore is an important part of the study of American history from the 20th century. There are thousands of photographs available from the Progressive Era (the period from 1900-1920 characterized as a time featuring reactions to the great changes that had occurred in America during the late 19th century due to industrialization, urbanization, and immigration ). In the last few years, many of these photographs have been digitized, so now you can access them online. Over the new few days, we will be examining the vast and rich collection of photographs that exist on the Internet.

**Project Overview**

TASK 1

First, you will be learning how to analyze photographs to find out the story behind the image.

TASK 2

Then, you will be examining the databases, archives, websites, and collections

that have been collected for you.

TASK 3

Finally, you will be creating an exhibit of photographs that touch on at least three

major themes of the Progressive Era, analyzing the photographs to explain what they have to tell about the Progressive Era and sharing your exhibit with your classmates (via a PowerPoint presentation or other method you choose).

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Due Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

­­­­­­­­­­­

TASK 1

1. The first step is to go to <http://www.edc.org/CCT/PMA/> This website features some exercises that will help us to learn how to analyze photographs.

2. Click on “Image Detective”. On this page, look for the bubble that says “See How a Scholar Investigates an Image” and click on that. Follow those links.

3. After you have seen how a scholar examines a photograph, go back to the main

page for “Image Detective” and click on any picture to begin. You will be looking

at a photograph, posing a question about what is going on in the picture,

gathering clues, examining background information and drawing a conclusion.

You must do this for at least 4 different pictures on the “Image Detective” main

page.

4. Please summarize what you learned about your 4 different photographs below.

Photo #1

Photo #2

Photo #3

Photo #4

**TASK 2/ Part 1**

Now that you have learned about some of the ways in which historians analyze

historical photographs to learn about the past, you will be doing the same thing. You will begin exploring online photography resources (websites are listed below), seeing what types of photographs you can find. You will then describe what you have seen on the next page.

Websites:

The Triangle Factory Fire:

<http://www.ilr.cornell.edu/trianglefire/photos/default.html>

Touring America: Photographs from the Detroit Publishing Company:

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/touring/index.html>

Lewis W. Hine Child Labor Photographs:

<http://www.historyplace.com/unitedstates/childlabor/index.html>

Votes for Women: Suffrage Pictures:

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/vfwhtml/vfwhome.html>

Photographs from the Chicago Daily News:

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/ndlpcoop/ichihtml/cdnhome.html>

American Memory Project:

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/index.html>

Muckrakers:

<http://www.pace.edu/library/pages/links/muckrakers/Pages/Muckrakers.htm>

Lower East Side Tenement Museum:

<http://www.tenement.org/research.html>

Photographs of Urbanization in the Progressive Era:

<http://memory.loc.gov/learn/features/timeline/progress/cities/urban.html>

American Photographs: The First Century

<http://nmaa-ryder.si.edu/helios/amerphotos.html>

Photography and Social Reform:

<http://xroads.virginia.edu/~MA01/davis/photography/reform/progressive_era.html>

**TASK 2 / Part 2**

List the websites you have visited (you must visit at least 4 of the websites) and

describe the types of images that you see.

Website #1

Title:

Theme of the collection:

Describe the images:

Website #2

Title:

Theme of the collection:

Describe the images:

Website #3

Title:

Theme of the collection:

Describe the images:

Website #4

Title:

Theme of the collection:

Describe the images:

**TASK 2 / Part 3**

After spending some time exploring all the websites above, you will be choosing 5 of

your favorite photographs from the Progressive Era from the websites, and analyzing those photographs using the method that you have learned. The photographs that you select must represent at least 2 of the themes of the Progressive Era listed below.

**Progressive Era Themes**

* Corporations and Labor: Child labor, unions, worker and consumer protection, Triangle Fire, The Jungle, etc.
* Urbanization and Immigration: Growth of cities, nativism, and settlement houses, etc.
* Women’s Rights: Birth control movement, suffragettes, changing role of women in society.
* Political changes: Votes for women, government reforms, progressive political interventions.
* Temperance/Prohibition: Moderation or banning of alcohol.
* You may also select a theme of your own choosing-- consider: conservation, social welfare, tariffs, anti-trust action, youth reform, socialism.
* Progressive Reformers: Politicians, muckrakers, crusaders.

While you are looking for your 5 photographs, keep in mind that you are looking for

photographs with a story to tell. Look for photographs that raise questions in your mind regarding what is going on in the picture, who the people are, and what the image represents. You should save the links to your photographs by copying and pasting the links onto a Microsoft Word document. You may choose to find your 5 photographs and then analyze the pictures OR select and analyze photographs one at a time. Follow the steps you learned on the Picturing Modern America site: (<http://www.edc.org/CCT/PMA/>)

PROCESS FOR ANALYZING A PHOTOGRAPH

1) Form a question about the image.

2) Gather clues about what is going on in the image.

3) Use information to analyze what is going on in the image.

4) Draw a conclusion about the image.

­­

**TASK 3 - Presentation Creation**

After you have analyzed your images, open up PowerPoint (or another presentation platform you get approved by your teacher). You will be creating a PowerPoint slide show of your images. Your slide show must have the following features:

* Slide 1: Title Page featuring your name.
* Slide 2: A summary (at least two sentences) defining the Progressive Era (in your own words).
* Slides 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7: Your image (copy and paste it from the site you found it on) and a detailed analysis of the image. The analysis must be based upon following the four steps from Picturing Modern America AND must describe which theme of the Progressive Era the image is representative of. You must also put the web address of the photograph.

**TASK 4 - Critical Thinking Questions**

1)How would you define the Progressive Era?

2) In your opinion, what do you believe to be the most important success of the

Progressive Era? Why?

3) In your opinion, what do you believe to be a significant failure or flaw of the

Progressive Era? Why?

4) Describe a political, social, or cultural movement today that you would define

as “progressive”. Why would you define this era as such?