

Investigating the Effects of Industrialization

I. Task:

- Imagine you are an investigative reporter in England in 1900. You have been given an assignment to write an editorial on the *effects of the Industrial Revolution*. The essential question that you must answer in your editorial is:

“Did the Industrial Revolution improve life?”

- Some ideas you will need to consider when answering this question are:
 - ❖ Did people live healthier lives in the cities or rural areas?
 - ❖ Were city dwellers better educated?
 - ❖ Did people in the cities have better living conditions?
 - ❖ Were women and children treated more favorably?
 - ❖ Did workers receive better wages and working conditions?

II. Directions:

- To answer these questions, and determine if the Industrial Revolution improved life, you will investigate different aspects of life during this era by examining illustrations, graphs, literature, and other primary source readings at 10 different classroom stations.
- As a group of three, you will rotate to each station and read the written information. You will then discuss the positive and negative effects of the topic on individuals and society. Individually, you will record notes onto the **“Effects Grid”**.
- As a group, you will also discuss how you might remedy/improve the negative effects of your topic and record your conclusions on the Effects Grid.
- Groups will repeat this process for all 10 stations spending about 6 minutes at each station.
- Once all stations have been visited, the class will review how to write the editorial (see reverse side).

Writing an Editorial on the Industrial Revolution

1. You will assume the role of an English journalist in 1900 writing an editorial for the *London Times* that comments on whether the Industrial Revolution improved life, and that suggests ways to address the various social and economic problems it created.
2. Write your editorial for the citizens of London who you may assume are generally familiar with the Industrial Revolution, but do not know the details of its effects. Use the information you gathered on the **Effects Grid** to help you formulate your thoughts. Follow these guidelines:

a. Write a headline that reflects your point of view.

b. Structure your editorial as follows:

- **Introduction:** Provide a brief introduction to the Industrial Era and state whether you think its overall effects on individuals and society are mostly positive, mostly negative, or mixed.
- **Positive Effects:** Include a section (one or more paragraphs) that explains the positive effects on individuals and/or society.
- **Negative Effects:** Include a section (one or more paragraphs) that explains the negative effects on individuals and/or society.
- **Suggestions for improvement:** Include a final section (one or more paragraphs) that explains your recommendations about how to address the negative effects.

c. Include references to at least 5 aspects of the Industrial Revolution in your editorial as reflected in your Effects Chart.

3. Your editorial should be about 1½ to 2 pages in length, and may be **typewritten or written neatly in blue or black ink only.**