

11th Grade MDPT Sample

Activity 1: Reading and Note-Taking

Immigration and industrialization in the United States grew hand in hand as all areas of production became more mechanized. Immigrants provided a cheap labor force for developing industries, which powered the rapid growth of the United States into a modern nation. Increased immigration and internal migration, combined with massive industrialization, created many problems. Calls for reform quickly followed. In response to growing concerns about big business and the struggle of workers, advocates formed labor unions.

The Knights of Labor was one such union. The “Preamble and Declaration of Principles,” published in 1886, describes the goals of this organization. The second document, a song written in 1878, was popular among labor-reform supporters and union members until 1938. The lyrics echo many of the concerns raised by workers.

As you read and take notes, think about these questions:

- What issues and events of the late 1800s led to the changes in the relationship between workers and big business owners?
- What problems resulted from rapid and large-scale industrialization?
- How might the reforms described in these documents have benefitted both workers and business?

For Activity 2, you will write in response to an argumentative prompt.

Excerpt from **Preamble and Declaration of Principles of the
Knights of Labor of America**
from *Journal of United Labor* (1886)

TO THE PUBLIC:

The alarming development and aggressiveness of great capitalists and corporations, unless checked, will inevitably lead to the pauperization and hopeless degradation of the toiling masses.

It is imperative, if we desire to enjoy the full blessings of life, that a check be placed upon unjust accumulation, and the power for evil of aggregated wealth.

This much-desired object can be accomplished only by the united efforts of those who obey the divine injunction, "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread."

Therefore we have formed the Order of Knights of Labor, for the purpose of organizing and directing the power of the industrial masses, not as a political party, for it is more—in it are crystallized sentiments and measures for the benefit of the whole people, but it should be borne in mind, when exercising the right of suffrage, that most of the objects herein set forth can only be obtained through legislation, and that it is the duty of all to assist in nominating and supporting with their votes only such candidates as will pledge their support to those measures, regardless of party. But no one shall, however, be compelled to vote with the majority, and calling upon all who believe in securing "the greatest good to the greatest number," to join and assist us . . .

"Eight-Hours"

Words by I. G. Blanchard Music by Rev. Jesse H. Jones

We mean to make things over,
we are tired of toil for naught,
With but bare enough to live upon,
and never an hour for thought;
We want to feel the sunshine,
and we want to smell the flowers,
We are sure that God has will'd it,
and we mean to have eight hours.
We're summoning our forces
from the shipyard, shop, and mill,

- I. G. Blanchard (1878)

Activity 2: Writing

Read the prompt and then write your response.

Remember, a strong argumentative response:

- States a clear argument related to the resources and the prompt, and maintains it throughout the work
- Uses relevant and accurate details/evidence from two or more resources to support argument
- Consistently uses grade-appropriate strategies to clarify relationships between and among ideas, and to connect evidence to argument
- Consistently and accurately uses domain-specific words to develop and support argument
- Is readable with most grade-level conventions used correctly

Prompt Type: Argumentative

Prompt: Using what you know about dynamic relationships, the rise of big business, and the development of labor unions, outline several significant moments in the labor movement. Use evidence and argument to demonstrate why these moments were significant.