

Name _____

Labor Union Stance Answer Key

Expected Understanding:

- Students supporting unions should argue they were vital for improving safety, wages, and rights.
- Students opposing unions may argue that industrial progress required stability and that unions caused disruptions.
- Strong answers reference specific conditions of labor (e.g., long hours, unsafe factories, child labor) and provide reasoning for their stance.

Teacher's Guide

- **Differentiation Tips:**
 - Offer sentence starters like "I believe unions were necessary because..." for emerging writers.
 - Allow oral debates or pair discussions before writing for verbal learners.
 - Encourage advanced students to reference specific reforms that unions influenced, such as the Ten Hours Act.
- **Engagement Ideas:**
 - Host a classroom debate where half the class represents workers and half represents factory owners.
 - Have students create mock posters showing slogans *for* or *against* unions based on their research.
- **Extension Activities:**
 - Connect this debate to modern labor movements and discuss how workers' rights have evolved.
 - Assign a reflection comparing 19th-century labor struggles with those in today's industries (e.g., technology or service work).