

Progressive Era Journal Answer Key

Responses will vary. A strong response should:

- Write from a plausible historical perspective in 1910
- React directly to Roosevelt's ideas about controlling unfair business power
- Show understanding of Progressive Era problems (monopolies, worker conditions, inequality, etc.)
- Use clear supporting reasons and emotions connected to the speaker's situation

Teacher's Guide

- **Skill Focus:** Historical empathy; interpreting primary source text; persuasive and narrative writing from a point of view.
- **Differentiation Tips:**
 - Provide sentence starters such as: "As a worker in a steel mill, I believe..." or "I fear what might happen if..."
 - Allow drafting in bullet form first for students who require scaffolding before writing full paragraphs.
- **Engagement Strategies:**
 - Conduct a brief dramatic reading of the excerpt before writing to boost understanding and interest.
 - Invite students to share their paragraphs from different perspectives, then discuss how reform ideas affected different groups.
- **Extension Ideas:**
 - Compare this excerpt with a criticism from a business leader of the time; students rewrite their paragraph to reflect a changing viewpoint.
 - Have students research one real reform that followed Roosevelt's ideas (e.g., antitrust actions) and add a short note about its impact.