

## HISTORICAL ANALYSIS – Cause & Effect *Progressivism*

### Directions:

Complete the activity on the back of this page, and then write a thesis addressing the following prompt, *Explain the forces that led to the Progressive Era reforms from 1900-1920, and evaluate the impact these reforms had on the American government.*

### From the 2015 Revised Framework:

**Causation** - Historical thinking involves the ability to **identify, analyze, and evaluate the relationships** among historical **causes and effects**, distinguishing between those that are long term and proximate. Historical thinking also involves the ability to distinguish between causation and correlation, and an awareness of contingency, the way that historical events result from a complex variety of factors that come together in unpredictable ways and often have unanticipated consequences.

**Argumentation** - Historical thinking involves the ability to **create an argument and support it using relevant historical evidence**. Creating a historical argument includes defining and framing a question about the past and then formulating a claim or argument about that question, often in the form of a thesis. **A persuasive historical argument requires a precise and defensible thesis or claim, supported by rigorous analysis of relevant and diverse historical evidence.** The argument and evidence used should be framed around the application of a specific historical thinking skill (e.g., comparison, causation, patterns of continuity and change over time, or periodization). Furthermore, historical thinking involves the ability to examine multiple pieces of evidence in concert with each other, noting contradictions, corroborations, and other relationships among sources to develop and support an argument.

**From the 2015 Revised Rubric for the Long Essay** - Describes causes AND/OR effects of a historical event, development, or process. Explains the reasons for the causes AND/OR effects of a historical event, development, or process. (2 of 6 possible points) Scoring Note: If the prompt requires discussion of both causes and effects, responses must address both causes and effects in order to earn both points.

### Reminders About Causation

Historians often debate the causes and effects of events, because history is complex and filled with multiple variables. Some facts are facts: black and white. But most of history is gray: up for interpretation. When analyzing causation, we must remember that we are making a judgment and defending our viewpoint. And, remember... every viewpoint has an opposing or differing viewpoint.

Analyzing the effects of historical events requires similar skill. It is not only listing ways the event impacted the nation, for example, it is analyzing historical significance of those effects. Did the effect stem directly from the event? Or, was it simply a coincidence in time and place? Was the effect short term or long term? Which cause was most significant? Which effect was most significant? Etc.

### From the Period 7 Content Outline

#### Key Concept 7.1:

Growth expanded opportunity, while economic instability led to new efforts to reform U.S. society and its economic system.

- II. In the **Progressive Era** of the early 20th century, **Progressives** responded to **political corruption, economic instability, and social concerns** by calling for **greater government action** and other **political and social measures**.
- Some **Progressive Era journalists** attacked what they saw as **political corruption, social injustice, and economic inequality**, while **reformers**, often from the **middle and upper classes** and including many **women**, worked to effect **social changes** in cities and among immigrant populations.
  - On the national level, **Progressives** sought **federal legislation** that they believed would effectively **regulate the economy, expand democracy, and generate moral reform**. **Progressive amendments** to the Constitution dealt with issues such as **prohibition** and **woman suffrage**.
  - Preservationists** and **conservationists** both supported the establishment of **national parks** while advocating different government responses to the overuse of **natural resources**.
  - The **Progressives** were divided over many issues. Some Progressives supported **Southern segregation**, while others ignored its presence. Some Progressives advocated expanding **popular participation in government**, while others called for greater reliance on **professional and technical experts** to make government more efficient. Progressives also disagreed about **immigration restriction**.

# Explaining Causation... *Progressivism*

**Causes: Industrialization, Urbanization, Immigration & Migration**    **Effects: Changing Role of Government**

Explain how industrialization, urbanization, and demographic changes led to new calls for reform during the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Identify one political, economic and social issue for each cause.

**Industrialization and Rise of Big Business**  
*Created call for political reform by...*

*Created call for economic reform by...*

*Created call for social reform by...*

**Urbanization**  
*Created call for political reform by...*

*Created call for economic reform by...*

*Created call for social reform by...*

**Demographic Shifts; Peopling; Immigration and Migration**  
*Created call for political reform by...*

*Created call for economic reform by...*

*Created call for social reform by...*

Identify three specific reforms that resulted from the problems created by Industrialization.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

How did these reforms impact American government? (from what to what?)

Identify three specific reforms that resulted from the problems created by Urbanization.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

How did these reforms impact American government? (from what to what?)

Identify three specific reforms that resulted from the problems created by peopling changes.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

How did these reforms impact American government? (from what to what?)