

Reform in Action

Trace how Progressive reformers connected problems to government action.

8.2e "Progressive reformers sought to address political and social issues at the local, state, and federal levels of government between 1890 and 1920..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each social or political problem in the passage. Circle each government response, then write S for state or F for federal beside it.

Problems, Pressure, and Policy

- ① Between 1890 and 1920, rapid industrial growth and crowded cities created problems that many Americans wanted government to address. After the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire killed 146 workers in New York City in 1911, public anger focused on unsafe workplaces. Reformers, workers, and journalists pressed New York State officials to inspect factories and require safer exits, fire drills, and other protections. The state passed new workplace laws. This response shows how a local disaster could lead to reform at the state level.
- ② Journalists also used investigations to build support for national action. Upton Sinclair's 1906 novel *The Jungle* described filthy conditions in parts of the meatpacking industry. Although Sinclair wrote about workers as well as food, readers were especially disturbed by food safety. President Theodore Roosevelt supported an investigation, and Congress passed the Meat Inspection Act and the Pure Food and Drug Act in 1906. These laws strengthened meat inspection and restricted interstate trade in adulterated or misbranded food and drugs.
- ③ Women reformers argued that political power was necessary to change social conditions. Suffrage groups organized marches, speeches, petitions, and campaigns for voting rights. Some victories came first through state laws, as states granted women the vote. Activists then continued to demand a national guarantee. In 1920, the Nineteenth Amendment prohibited the United States and any state from denying citizens the right to vote because of sex. Progressive political reform also included the Seventeenth Amendment, ratified in 1913, which required the direct election of U.S. senators.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What problem led New York State officials to adopt workplace protections? Name one protection the state required.

2 How did Sinclair’s writing help prompt federal action? Name the concern and one resulting law.

3 How did the suffrage movement move from state efforts to a national guarantee?

4 Name one state reform and one federal reform. What problem did each address?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Propose a reform for a city in 1912. Write four sentences: name a problem, choose a government level, propose a policy, and explain its effect.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each social or political problem in the passage. Circle each government response, then write S for state or F for federal beside it. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What problem led New York State officials to adopt workplace protections? Name one protection the state required.	The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire and concern about unsafe workplaces led to reform. The state required protections such as safer exits, fire drills, or factory inspections.
2	How did Sinclair's writing help prompt federal action? Name the concern and one resulting law.	Readers were disturbed by food safety after Sinclair described filthy meatpacking conditions. Congress passed the Meat Inspection Act or the Pure Food and Drug Act.
3	How did the suffrage movement move from state efforts to a national guarantee?	Some states first granted women the vote through state laws. Activists then won the Nineteenth Amendment, which barred the United States and states from denying the vote because of sex.
4	Name one state reform and one federal reform. What problem did each address?	State-level examples include New York workplace laws addressing unsafe factories or state suffrage laws addressing voting rights. Federal examples include food and drug laws addressing unsafe food and medicine, or the Nineteenth Amendment addressing voting rights.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Crowded apartment buildings have blocked fire exits and poor ventilation. I would ask the city government to inspect tenements twice each year. The city should fine landlords who block exits or fail to provide safe ventilation. These rules would make homes safer and give officials a way to enforce health standards.

Accept accurately supported responses that connect a problem, reform pressure, government level, and policy. For the open response, accept any historically plausible Progressive-era issue, level of government, policy, and explanation in exactly four sentences.