Evidence for Change

How reformers turned public attention into pressure for action

USH.C.2.1.F "Evaluate the role of muckrakers and social reformers (e.g., Jane Addams, Ida Tarbell, Jacob Riis, Upton Sinclair) on increased awareness of business practices and societal concerns, including child labor, working conditions..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each reformer's method, circle the problem it brought to light, and number the government actions that followed. Use your marks to judge how awareness could lead to change.

From Exposure to Action

1. In 1890, Jacob Riis's *How the Other Half Lives* brought crowded New York tenements before middle-class readers. His reporting and photographs exposed unsafe housing, but images could not repair buildings by themselves. At Chicago's Hull House, Jane Addams and her colleagues provided services to immigrant neighbors and pressed for protections for working children. Addams paired firsthand knowledge with organizing, turning concern about child labor into demands for public action. Both reformers made city hardships harder for comfortable Americans to ignore.

2. Ida Tarbell investigated Standard Oil's business practices in articles published beginning in 1902. She described how the company used tactics, including secret railroad rebates, to gain an advantage over rivals. Her documented reporting strengthened public calls to curb powerful trusts. In 1906, Upton Sinclair's novel *The Jungle* depicted dangerous, unsanitary conditions in Chicago's meatpacking industry. Readers focused more on food safety than on workers' suffering, helping build support for federal meat inspection.

3. Reformers did not all use the same tools: Riis showed living conditions, Addams organized with neighbors, Tarbell investigated corporate conduct, and Sinclair told a story rooted in meatpacking research. Each could raise awareness, but laws required officials and voters to act. Congress passed the Meat Inspection Act in 1906, and the Supreme Court ordered Standard Oil broken up in 1911 under an earlier antitrust law. Neither decision came from one writer alone. Their influence depended on turning public attention into pressure for change.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Riis and Addams use different methods to draw attention to city hardships?

2. Why could Tarbell's reporting strengthen calls to regulate big business?

3. How did Sinclair's novel help bring about a response, and which concern received less attention?

4. Why would it be misleading to credit either the 1906 law or the 1911 breakup to one writer alone?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you are speaking at a 1908 city hearing about children working in factories. In five sentences, compare two reformers' methods from the passage, choose a method to use, propose a specific action, and explain why awareness alone might not change conditions.

ANSWER KEY

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HIGH SCHOOL · USH.C.2.1.F

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each reformer's method, circle the problem it brought to light, and number the government actions that followed. Use your marks to judge how awareness could lead to change. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Riis and Addams use different methods to draw attention to city hardships?	**Riis used reporting and photographs to expose unsafe housing. Addams worked with neighbors and organized for protections for working children.**
2	Why could Tarbell's reporting strengthen calls to regulate big business?	**Her documented account of Standard Oil's secret railroad rebates showed how it gained an advantage over rivals.**
3	How did Sinclair's novel help bring about a response, and which concern received less attention?	**Concern about food safety helped build support for federal meat inspection. Workers' suffering received less attention.**
4	Why would it be misleading to credit either the 1906 law or the 1911 breakup to one writer alone?	**Writers raised public awareness, but officials had to act. Congress passed the law, and the Supreme Court ordered the breakup under an earlier antitrust law.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Jacob Riis used reporting and photographs to show city hardships, while Jane Addams organized with neighbors to seek protections for working children. I would follow Addams's method because families could tell officials what young workers face. I ask the city council to gather testimony and petition state lawmakers for a minimum working age. Riis's images could help residents notice the problem, but attention alone cannot enforce a rule. Lawmakers would need to adopt a rule, and officials would need to enforce it.

Accept other passage-supported comparisons of reformers' methods. The hearing statement should name a plausible action and distinguish raising awareness from making or enforcing policy.