

Reforming the Nation: Progressives of the Early Twentieth Century

You have been assigned to assume the character of a leading Progressive reformer. Your task is to research your reformer and answer the following six questions, creating a biography sheet for “yourself” that includes a picture, dates of life, and information that includes these six questions. In addition to the biography sheet, please provide a “nameplate” that identifies you (and any information you wish to share). You may earn extra credit for bringing a “prop” that helps your “date” identify you—something from your individual’s past or present. (Be creative).

During the speed dating, you will have about 2 minutes to share your story and to listen to the story of the person with whom you are paired. It will be your “task” to figure out who you have “met” and who you still need to meet. At the signal, both people seated at the desks will move.

Questions (400 words minimum, submitted on turnitin)

Picture and find a quote that you think best represents them

Any background info necessary (growing up, family, education, etc.)

1. What criticism of American society did the individual have?
2. What methods did the person use to improve American life?
3. What success did the individual have in promoting reform?
4. What detail(s) of the person’s work made him or her an interesting historical figure.
5. To what extent was the reformer obsessed with achieving an impractical goal through fanatical or impractical means?
6. What lasting impact did the person’s reforms have on American society?

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| 1. Theodore Roosevelt | 14. Thorstein Veblen |
| 2. William Howard Taft | 15. Jacob Riis |
| 3. Jane Addams | 16. Thomas Nast |
| 4. Hiram Johnson | 17. Florence Kelley |
| 5. Upton Sinclair | 18. Carrie Chapman Catt |
| 6. Walter Rauschenbusch | 19. John Muir |
| 7. W.E.B. DuBois | 20. Gifford Pinchot |
| 8. Ida Tarbell | 21. Booker T Washington |
| 9. Lincoln Steffens | 22. Alice Paul |
| 10. Robert LaFollette | 23. Theodore Dreiser |
| 11. Woodrow Wilson | 24. Eugene V Debs |
| 12. Frank Norris | 25. Margaret Sanger |
| 13. Frederick W Taylor | |

Alternative Options: Henry Demarest Lloyd, William Allen White, Charlotte P. Gilman, Ray Stannard Baker, William E. Borah, Herbert Croly, John Spargo, Walter Hines Page, David Graham Phillips, Frederick Howe, David Graham Phillips, Frederick Howe, Judge Ben B. Lindsey, Charles Evans Hughes, Mayor Samuel Jones, Robert Lansing, Frederick Jackson Turner

