

Northwest History Consortium

Pullman, Homestead, and Mining Strikes

Vince Hughes
8th Grade

National Standard

Era 6: The Development of the Industrial United States (1870-1900) / Standard 3

Standard 3: The rise of the American labor movement and how political issues reflected social and economic changes.

BACKGROUND

Most of you know dads and moms in this community that work for Boeing. Periodically they go on strike, and usually the disagreements between the company and workers are resolved in a business-like way. But it was not always that simple. In the 1890s, the US government got involved in many labor disputes between American companies and their workers.

SCENARIO

In the PA Homestead Strike of 1892 workers protested wage cuts and demanded recognition of their union. National Guard troopers were called to the steel mill for three months until the strike was broken. In Couer d'Alene, Idaho, also in 1892, striking silver miners clashed with strikebreakers and Federal troops were sent to the site. In May 1894, in the Pullman Palace Car Company strike, workers protested against wage reductions and President Cleveland sent in troops.

The striking workers in the above cases undoubtedly would have preferred that laissez-faire—"Don't meddle in our affairs!"—prevail. However, the owners, with the help of the intervention of government, were able to fight back.

TASK

You are a newspaper reporter. You have a deadline of next week in which you will submit an editorial on any of the above-mentioned labor strikes. It may be dangerous to do so, but you are courageous and are committed to publishing your opinion.

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RESOURCES

Book

Goldstein, Robert Justin. Political Repression in Modern America From 1870-1976. Champaign, IL: University of Illinois Press, 2001.

Stowell, Myron R. “Fort Frick” or the Siege of Homestead; . . . [originally published in 1893 by Francis P. McCluskey, Pittsburg Printing Co.]. New York, NY: General Books LLC, 2010.

Internet

Goldner, Cheri. “The Homestead Strike: 1892.” 1997. Bowling Green State University (American Culture Studies). 2010. Bowling Green, OH. 24 June 2010 <<http://www.bgsu.edu/departments/acs/1890s/carnegie/strike.html>>.

“The Pullman Strike.” ©2007 - 2010 Illinois During the Gilded Age. Northern Illinois University (Illinois Historical Digitization Projects at Northern Illinois University Libraries). 2010. DeKalb, IL. 24 June 2010 <<http://dig.lib.niu.edu/gildedage/pullman/index.html>>.

Robinson, Scott. “The Pullman Strike of 1894.” 22 July 2009. The Robinson Library. 2010. [location unknown]. 24 June 2010 <<http://www.robinsonlibrary.com/social/industries/labor/disputes/pullman.htm>>.

ASSESSMENT

Newspaper Editorial Rubric

| RUBRIC | 1 - not passing | 2 - not passing | 3 - passing | 4 - passing |
|-----------------------------|---|--|---|---|
| Position | No position, unclear | Inconsistent position | Adequate position | Clear & consistent position stated throughout |
| Background | Few or no details, restatement of scenario | Some details of events | Some main ideas, not always supported | Several main ideas with supporting details |
| Reasons For Position | Missing reasons for choosing this viewpoint | One or two reasons, no elaboration | Reasoning with some elaboration | Several reasons or well-developed few reasons |
| Organization | Little evidence of organization | Attempts at organization, little sense of persuasion & wholeness | Logical & mostly complete, some ideas not connected | Ideas & reasoning organized & connected |
| Evidence, Sources | No footnotes cited | One footnote cited | Two or three footnotes cited | Minimum 4 footnotes cited |

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REFERENCES/CITATIONS

“History Standards for Grades 5-12 United States.” UCLA National Center for History in the Schools. 2005. Los Angeles, CA. 19 April 2010 <<http://nchs.ucla.edu/standards/era6-5-12.html>>.

Hughes, Vince. “Newspaper Editorial Rubric.” NWESD Organization. 2008. Anacortes, WA. 24 June 2010 <http://www.nwesd.org/1510101216191755740/lib/1510101216191755740/6.3__Pullman.Homestead.Mining.Strikes.Hughes.8.pdf>.

Hughes, Vince. “Pullman, Homestead, and Mining Strikes.” NWESD Organization. 2008. Anacortes, WA. 24 June 2010 <http://www.nwesd.org/1510101216191755740/lib/1510101216191755740/6.3__Pullman.Homestead.Mining.Strikes.Hughes.8.pdf>.