

# NEWSIES POSITION PAPER

## INDUSTRIAL ERA ASSESSMENT

To assess your understanding of the topics and themes we have discussed in our study of the Industrial Era, you will be writing a position paper analyzing the historical accuracy of the movie *Newsies*. You can choose your position – **that the movie is or is not a historically accurate representation of the Industrial Era** – but you must support your position by highlighting two themes from this unit that were accurately or inaccurately portrayed. Pick **one** side and prove to me that you are right. Assume that I will read your paper from the opposite position.

Final HARD COPY paper\* due:  
**Friday, May 25, 2018 by 3:30 pm**

*\* I must be able to hold it, smell it, and turn its beautiful pages by 3:30 pm on the 25<sup>th</sup>. Flash drives, email attachments, or GoogleDocs will not be accepted without prior permission, so plan ahead.*

We will take some time to review what was in the movie and brainstorm some ideas as a class. Use the organizational guides in this packet to help you generate ideas to keep yourself on track. You should be using your homework time to work on planning your paper.

### Requirements:

There is no length requirement, however, your paper **must include all of the following:**

- an introduction which states your position, introduces the Industrial Era and how you plan to prove you are correct
- two body paragraphs, each with historical evidence for two different themes that support your position; big business, child labor/working conditions, urbanization, reform, or union organizing (this is where you include information learned in class)
- at least two specific examples from the movie to prove your position for each theme with an explanation about how they accurately or inaccurately reflect the history
- a conclusion in which you explain whether you think being historically accurate or not enhances or detracts from the movie.

Your paper **must** follow standard MLA rules, like an English paper. It should be typed, double spaced, and in 12 point Times New Roman (or other standard font). All margins must be 1 inch.

You may use any information from class discussion, our class texts, or class videos to support your claim. **Be warned!** The assignment is to compare the movie to what we learned in class; *not to the actual historical strike!!* The assignment requires you to ask if the movie is historically accurate, not whether or not it is realistic. These two things are very different.

If you have any questions or concerns at any time while working on your paper, please contact for help. I am happy to meet with you during break or recess (by appointment), tutorial, or via email.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Section: \_\_\_\_\_

**This paper will count as a test.**

## **BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE** **INDUSTRIAL ERA VOCABULARY**

Below is a list of the vocabulary we have covered. (HINT: Teachers really like it when you use vocabulary learned in class in your papers! It makes us want to give you extra points.) Go through your notes and write the definitions down so that you can use them in your paper. Write down things and people we have talked about to get you thinking about what to look for in the movie.

### **VOCABULARY**

(look for these things in the movie!)

assembly line-

blacklist-

corporation-

collective bargaining-

monopoly-

muckraker-

picketeer-

picket line-

robber baron-

skyscrapers-

strike-

strike breakers-

tenement-

trust-

union-

urbanization-