

Group Assessment: Document Based Question ~ IMMIGRATION AND THE AMERICAN DREAM

PROMPT: Analyze the experiences of immigrants who came to the United States in the late 19th century to the early 20th century. Were new immigrants able to realize the American Dream during the Industrial Era?

TASK:

- ✓ Students will work individually and collaboratively within their group to complete a series of tasks
- ✓ Individual Responsibility (TOTAL 25 POINTS)
 - Document Guided Questions and Draft Document Main Idea Analysis (5 points)
 - Individual Participation within Group (5 points)
 - FINAL DRAFT Document Main Idea Analysis (15 points)
- ✓ Group Responsibility (TOTAL 50 POINTS)
 - Discussion Notes and Organizer (5 Points)
 - Draft Claim (5 Points)
 - Group Collaboration (5 Points)
 - Introduction Paragraph (10 Points)
 - Final Draft Claim (15 points)
 - Topics and Document Selection (10 points)

Historical Context: During the Gilded Age, American industrial development was growing at an unprecedented rate. To fuel the increased demand for unskilled workers there was also an increase in immigration from southern and eastern Europe, Asia, and elsewhere. These immigrants became known as “New Immigrants” as they were from different regions than the western and northern European immigrants or “Old Immigrants.”

Many immigrants during the waves of “new immigration” of the late 19th and the early 20th centuries were leaving home in an effort to find work. The growing U.S. economy and the rise of the machine age were creating large amounts of factory jobs in the urban centers of the northeast. Many immigrants entered into cities such as New York, Boston, and Philadelphia, found work and settled there.

There are two primary thoughts on the integration of immigrants into American society, cultural pluralism and assimilation. Cultural pluralism calls for the immigrant to retain his or her ethnic identity within American society. They may live in ethnic neighborhoods (like Chinatown in New York or San Francisco) and continue to speak their native language, continue traditions and retain a clearly identifiable way of life. Assimilation is the concept of shedding traditional practices and language for a more “American” way of life, as well as the adoption of the English language and other American customs.

Most immigrants to America have viewed it as the “Land of Opportunity” and have come to the United States seeking economic opportunities, individual freedom, and social equality. Many sought access to land or jobs or an escape from the rigid socioeconomic class structure of their homelands.