

GROUP SCENARIOS: PROGRESSIVE ERA PLATFORMS

Your group will be assigned one of the scenarios below to research and present to the class.

1. Suffrage Movement: A Woman's Right to Vote

You are a group of people living in Albany, New York in 1907 who want women to have the right to vote. Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton are your heroines. You have been marching in the streets every Saturday and holding meetings to promote your cause. Be prepared to present your platform, explain why women should have the right to vote, and detail actions that the leaders of your cause are taking. As part of your presentation, create a poster and platform speech that persuade others to join your cause.

2. Disgruntled Miners: Labor Unions and Labor Laws

You are members and leaders of the UMWA, the United Mine Workers of America. Not only are you concerned with the safety of workers in the mines, but you also support any labor laws that help children and workers in factories. Be prepared to present your platform of reforms that need to be enacted to ensure the wellbeing of workers in mines and factories. Explain what happened at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire and how this event has contributed to the growing unrest. As part of your presentation, create a poster and platform speech that persuade others to join your cause.

3. Ban the Drink: The Temperance Movement

You are members of the Anti-Saloon League who want to ban alcohol. You know “the evils of drink,” and you are prepared to apply political pressure to change laws regarding the availability of alcohol. Share your platform with others and explain why they should vote and think as you do. As part of your presentation, create a poster and platform speech that persuade others to join your cause.

4. Development of National Parks: Conservationism and the Movement to Preserve Land

You are outdoor enthusiasts, hunters, and conservationists who have banded together to promote the preservation of wildlife, forests, and natural resources. You are inspired by the words of John Muir and Gifford Pinchot and are eager to share some of their inspiring views about the preservation of our wilderness for generations to come. Use this opportunity to promote the creation of national parks, the preservation of wildlife, and other issues regarding the conservation of our environment. As part of your presentation, create a poster and platform speech that persuade others to join your cause.

5. NAACP: The Fight for Racial Equality

You are a group of people who are fighting for voting rights for African Americans and to end racial violence and segregation in public places. Your leaders include W. E. B. DuBois and Ida B. Wells-Barnett. Share your platform for racial equality, desegregation, and voting rights. As part of your presentation, create a poster and platform speech that persuade others to join your cause.