

Robber Barons or Captains of Industry Essay Question

Directions:

You are to write a complete and comprehensive essay answering one of the questions below. Be sure to use your notes, vocabulary, and textbook to gather the information needed. Be sure to include an introduction with thesis statement, body paragraphs, and a conclusion that summarizes your essay and supports your thesis statement.

In your own words state whether you believe businessmen such as Rockefeller, Carnegie, Vanderbilt and others were Robber Barons or Captains of Industry.

- As Robber Barons, did they lie, cheat, and steal to get ahead in business?
- As Captains of Industry, was what they did to get ahead in the business world excusable because their contributions advanced society?

Be sure to support your answer with detailed information from your notes, textbook, classroom discussions and work. **NO INTERNET!!!** This must be in your own words!!

Think about vocabulary and examples from the unit to include in your essay.

Do not use:

- I, me we, us, etc.
- Thing, stuff
- Contractions
- Slang
- Abbreviations
- Question

Outline for 5 Paragraph Essay

Paragraph 1: Introduction

- Background information
- Position Statement - indicates your paper's topic, makes a clear purpose and provides an overview of your main 3 points.

Paragraph 2: Body Paragraph

- Begins with a topic sentence that identifies ONE main idea.
- Supporting details about your main idea

Paragraph 3: Body Paragraph

- Begins with a topic sentence that identifies another idea main idea.
- Supporting details about your main idea

Paragraph 4: Body Paragraph

- Begins with a topic sentence that identifies the last main idea.
- Supporting details about your main idea

Paragraph 5: Conclusion

- Revisits your purpose for writing
- Summarizes paper's major points
- Any thoughts to ponder

Write a brief outline on the left side of your notebook (this will be graded) to help get started and organize your thoughts.

Persuasive Essay : Captains of Industry vs. Robber Barons

Teacher Name: Mrs. Rains

Student Name: _____

CATEGORY	4 - Above Standards	3 - Meets Standards	2 - Approaching Standards	1 - Below Standards	Score
Position Statement	The position statement provides a clear, strong statement of the author's position on the topic.	The position statement provides a clear statement of the author's position on the topic.	A position statement is present, but does not make the author's position clear.	There is no position statement.	
Evidence and Examples	All of the evidence and examples are specific, relevant and explanations are given that show how each piece of evidence supports the author's position.	Most of the evidence and examples are specific, relevant and explanations are given that show how each piece of evidence supports the author's position.	At least one of the pieces of evidence and examples is relevant and has an explanation that shows how that piece of evidence supports the author's position.	Evidence and examples are NOT relevant AND/OR are not explained.	
Accuracy	All supportive facts and statistics are reported accurately.	Almost all supportive facts and statistics are reported accurately.	Most supportive facts and statistics are reported accurately.	Most supportive facts and statistics were inaccurately reported.	
Sequencing	Arguments and support are provided in a logical order that makes it easy and interesting to follow the author's train of thought.	Arguments and support are provided in a fairly logical order that makes it reasonably easy to follow the author's train of thought.	A few of the support details or arguments are not in an expected or logical order, distracting the reader and making the essay seem a little confusing.	Many of the support details or arguments are not in an expected or logical order, distracting the reader and making the essay seem very confusing.	
Grammar & Spelling	Author makes no errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.	Author makes 1-2 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.	Author makes 3-4 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.	Author makes more than 4 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.	
Closing paragraph	The conclusion is strong and leaves the reader solidly understanding the writer's position. Effective restatement of the position statement begins the closing paragraph.	The conclusion is recognizable. The author's position is restated within the first two sentences of the closing paragraph.	The author's position is restated within the closing paragraph, but not near the beginning.	There is no conclusion - the paper just ends.	