

## Progressive Priorities

Read through all of the Progressive Problems and rank them in order of importance. (1—most important, 8—least important). Then brainstorm possible reforms for each problem.

Ranking	Progressive Problem	How could this be effectively reformed?
	<p><b>Racism:</b> In 1896, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that Jim Crow laws which promoted segregation were legal, as long as facilities were provided that were separate, but equal. The federal government also practiced institutionalized racism by discriminating against blacks in hiring for jobs.</p>	
	<p><b>Women's Rights:</b> Even though some women had been agitating for suffrage for over fifty years, the vote was still limited to men. Women also received lower wages than men and carried the burden of urban poverty.</p>	
	<p><b>Conservation:</b> Some areas of the country were plagued with drought, while others faced terrible flooding. Logging companies used land indiscriminately, destroying old forests that had taken centuries to grow.</p>	
	<p><b>Working Conditions:</b> Members of the working class were subjected to long hours, low pay, and poor working conditions. All those injured at work were also in danger of losing their job. Even young children were often employed in dangerous conditions.</p>	
	<p><b>Monopolies:</b> Several men, including J.P. Morgan and the Rockefellers, built bad "trusts" that attempted to build control the market and gouge profits from the public.</p>	

	<p><b>Political Corruption:</b> The political system was controlled by a number of “bosses” who pressured voters in supporting their candidates and causes. Voting was not done secretly and people had little influence over the political agenda.</p>	
	<p><b>Urban Slums:</b> Many new immigrants and members of the working class lived in crowded, run-down tenements in the cities. Often a few families were crowded into a small room without running water.</p>	
	<p><b>Education:</b> Schooling was not mandatory, and was often reserved for the upper classes. With the influx of a large immigrant population, there were also concerns about assimilating new Americans into the population.</p>	

**Homework:** Read Ch. 20, Sections 1 and 2. Then answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. Who worked for reform in the Progressive era? What types of reforms were they interested in?

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2. Name 2 reforms at the state level and 2 reforms at the national level.

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3. This time period is referred to as the “Progressive era.” What does this name mean? Is the name accurate?

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