Historical Figure A:

Read the following description of your assigned historical figure and research their life, view of industry view of government, etc. for homework. Tomorrow in class you will present you findings with a group of people who were assigned this same historical figure. Be prepared!

**Andrew Carnegie (1835–1919)**

A fabulously successful iron and steel magnate, Carnegie believed that natural selection would benefit American society by allowing the most able citizens to direct industrialization and the creation of wealth. In his book The Gospel of Wealth (1900), Carnegie also advocated large-scale private philanthropy by those who had attained such wealth, writing that "a man who dies rich dies disgraced."

Historical Figure B:

Read the following description of your assigned historical figure and research their life, view of industry, view of government, etc. for homework. Tomorrow in class you will present you findings with a group of people who were assigned this same historical figure. Be prepared!

**Henry George (1839–97)**

A journalist concerned about the increasing divide between the rich and poor in the United States, George saw in America's system of private land ownership the seeds of inequality. He proposed a "single tax system" levied only on land, and the abolition of taxes on earned income, as a way to address disparities in wealth and opportunity.

Historical Figure C:

Read the following description of your assigned historical figure and research their life, view of industry, view of government, etc. for homework. Tomorrow in class you will present you findings with a group of people who were assigned this same historical figure. Be prepared!

**Charlotte Perkins Gilman (1860–1935)**

One of the most influential and prolific writers of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Gilman criticized the "cult of domesticity" for its repression of intellectual vigor and civic discrimination against American women. She rejected the conservative version of Social Darwinism advocated by the English philosopher Herbert Spencer (1820–1903) and others, believing instead, like Lester Frank Ward (1841–1913) and other progressives, in the capacity of human beings to plan and direct their own destinies. Because she advocated that women be admitted to the professions, Gilman promoted two novel ideas to supplant a mother's household duties: the establishment of professional child-care facilities for child-rearing and of mass kitchens for communal meals.

Historical Figure D:

Read the following description of your assigned historical figure and research their life, view of industry, view of government, etc. for homework. Tomorrow in class you will present you findings with a group of people who were assigned this same historical figure. Be prepared!

**Orison Swett Marden (1850–1924)**

Born to a poor New England farm family, Marden founded Success Magazine in 1897, which boasted one of the largest reading audiences in late-nineteenth-century America. An optimist who coined the phrase, "Where there is a will, there is a way," Marden celebrated the virtues of hard work and perseverance. Summing up his philosophy, he once wrote, "The golden opportunity you are seeking is in yourself. It is not in your environment; it is not in luck or chance, or the help of others; it is in yourself alone."

Historical Figure E:

Read the following description of your assigned historical figure and research their life, view of industry, view of government, etc. for homework. Tomorrow in class you will present you findings with a group of people who were assigned this same historical figure. Be prepared!

**Hannah Solomon (1858–1942)**

Solomon founded the first national association of Jewish women in America: the National Council of Jewish Women, which operated according to her motto, "Woman's sphere is the whole wide world." Active in Chicago reform efforts, Solomon supported woman's suffrage and worked with Jewish immigrants, helping them through housing and public-health reform activities to adapt to American culture and society. Throughout her career, Solomon believed that a woman's primary responsibility was to her family; she believed that Jewish mothers were important standard-bearers for the Jewish faith and culture.

Historical Figure F:

Read the following description of your assigned historical figure and research their life, view of industry, view of government, etc. for homework. Tomorrow in class you will present you findings with a group of people who were assigned this same historical figure. Be prepared!

**William Graham Sumner (1840–1910)**

One of the most famous American social philosophers of the late-nineteenth century, and highly influenced by the English philosopher Herbert Spencer, Sumner believed that natural laws as rigid as those governing the physical world determine social reality. The strongest people always rise to the top, he argued. Sumner admitted that government-sponsored welfare programs would ease the difficulties encountered by the poorest Americans, but he warned that such aid would ultimately degrade a healthy society by ensuring the survival of its weakest and least-productive members.

Historical Figure G:

Read the following description of your assigned historical figure and research their life, view of industry, view of government, etc. for homework. Tomorrow in class you will present you findings with a group of people who were assigned this same historical figure. Be prepared!

**Lester Frank Ward (1841–1913)**

A pioneering American sociologist who was largely self-educated, Ward developed a theory of sociology based on stages of human development, in which human beings learn to take actions based on reason and the anticipation of consequences.