

**Directions:** Fill out the chart below with your group by using the notes and handouts from the last three weeks. This is information you will use when writing your essay. Aim for at least five specific items in each column.

*Why should late 19<sup>th</sup> century America be known as...*

The Age of Progress?	The Gilded Age

Which name seems more appropriate for the era? Explain.

## Essay Assignment: Age of Progress or Gilded Age?

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**Background:** In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, the United States experienced a tremendous amount of change. The economy became dramatically different, as new technology and corporations changed the way Americans did business. These economic changes had a variety of social effects, leading to the rise of labor unions, the growth of cities, and a massive increase in immigration.

### Task:

Write an essay in which you clearly take a position – should late 19<sup>th</sup> century America be known as the Age of Progress or the Gilded Age? Essay should include at least THREE REASONS to support your position.

### A successful essay should:

- Start with an **introduction** that “sets the stage” for the question and has a clear, strong, specific thesis statement that argues a clear position.
- Include concrete, specific **historical evidence**—from textbook readings, class notes, and primary/secondary source documents—to support your argument.
- Have **clear topic sentences** introducing the main idea of each body paragraph.
- Have **strong concluding sentences** that tie the evidence back to the thesis.
- End with a **conclusion** that revisits the argument and **connects** it to a broader historical context.

### REQUIREMENTS:

- Typed, double-spaced
  - 12 pt. font
  - Stapled, proper heading (name, block, date) with no extra spaces between paragraphs
  - Standard margins, numbered pages, and a creative and relevant title
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- ☛ **CP** = 2 pages
  - ☛ **ACP** = 2-1/2 – 3 pages
  - ☛ **Honors** = 4 – 5 pages; must use evidence from above as well as Zinn reading.

**DUE DATE = Friday, February 5, 2016**