Labor Movement Webquest
Social Reform in the Industrial Factory System

Directions: During the industrial revolution, the treatment of workers within the factory system led to several major reforms during the 19th century that still stand as the basis for our labor system today. During this webquest you will be focusing primarily on the treatment of children within the factory system and the steps that were taken to improve their way of life.

Step 1: Following the bookmarks on the webpage, log on to the website you will need to use for this assignment: http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/IRchild.htm

Step 2: For this assignment, your task will be to write a letter of protest to one of the leading advocates for the use of child labor. You will be writing this letter from the perspective of one of the children featured on this website.
* Scroll down to the section of the page labeled «Factory Workers»
* Choose one of these children to be the role that you will play for this assignment.
* Gather background information on this child that you will use to support your arguments that you will include in your letter.

Step 3: Under the section ‘Life in the Factory’, research the conditions that as a child, you would have experienced during the industrial revolution. Be sure and include specific examples of things that you would have experienced in your letter in order to help support your argument against child labor.

Step 4: Scroll to the section entitled, «Supporters of Child Labor». You will choose ONE of these supporters as the person who you will write to in order to argue against their support of child labor.
- You will need to choose a few of their key points to argue against in your letter, so be sure to research some of their specific arguments.

Step 5: In order to help support your argument against child labor, you will need to select one of the people from the «Factory Reformers» column to help support you in your task. Research the points that one of these reformers make in their argument and reference their ideas in your letter.

Step 6: Under the section entitled, «Statistics» select at least one piece of statistical information that you can use in your letter to further help support your argument against child labor.

Step 7: For your last step, research the column entitled «Factory Acts» which were pieces of legislation put before Parliament in response to child labor within the factories. Select one of these Acts to include in your letter that you would support as a child worker.
Writing Your Letter
Directions: After you have completed your research, your final task is to write out your letter using the information and statistics that you have gathered. In order for you to receive a full grade, you must include all of the criteria listed below. PLEASE TURN THIS SHEET IN WITH YOUR FINAL LETTER!!

Grading Criteria

1. Assignment is written in the correct format and voice of a child from the industrial revolution: _____/6 points

2. Assignment includes at least 3 examples of working conditions from the industrial revolution: _____/3 points

3. Assignment includes the ideas of one supporter of child labor reform during the Industrial Revolution: _____/3 points

4. Assignment includes the ideas of one advocate of child labor from the industrial revolution: _____/3 points

5. Assignment shows support and application of one Factory Reform act from the Industrial era: _____/3 points

6. Assignment includes statistical information as support for the argument presented: _____/3 points

7. Information presented in the assignment is historically accurate and relevant: _____/2 points

8. Student demonstrates creativity and effort in his/her assignment: _____/2 points

Total Points: _____/25