

Urbanization  
 Middle or High School Level  
 American History Honors  
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**Essay: What effect did Industrialization have on Urbanization? Using prior knowledge, your texts, and the information learned here, form your opinion to write a persuasive essay.**

**Document A:** The following document is from the Jacob Riis' book "How the Other Half Lives". He was a police reporter for the New York Tribune who wrote about and photographed the tenements of New York City in the 1890's.

In the street, where the city wields the broom, there is at least an effort at cleaning up. There has to be, or it would be swamped in filth overrunning from the courts and alleys where the rag-pickers live. It requires more than ordinary courage to explore these on a hot day. The undertaker has to do it then, the police always. Right here, in this tenement on the east side of the street, they found little Antonia Candia, victim of fiendish cruelty, 'covered,' says the account found in the records of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, 'with sores, and her hair matted with dried blood.' Abuse is the normal condition of 'the Bend,' murder its everyday crop, with the tenants not always the criminals. In this block between Bayard, Park, Mulberry, and Baxter Streets, 'the Bend' proper, the late Tenement House Commission counted 155 deaths of children in a specimen year (1882). Their percentage of the total mortality in the block was 68.28, while for the whole city the proportion was only 46.20. The infant mortality in any city or place as compared with the whole number of deaths is justly considered a good barometer of its general sanitary condition. Here, in this tenement, No. 59 1/2, next to Bandits' Roost, fourteen persons died that year, and eleven of them were children; in No. 61 eleven, and eight of them not yet five years old. According to the records in the Bureau of Vital Statistics only thirty-nine people lived in No. 59 1/2 in the year 1888, nine of them little children. There were five baby funerals in that house the same year. Out of the alley itself, No. 59, nine dead were carried in 1888, five in baby coffins. Here is the record of the year for the whole block, as furnished by the Registrar of Vital Statistics, Dr. Roger S. Tracy:

*Deaths and Death-rates in 1888 in Baxter and Mulberry Streets, between Park and Bayard Streets.*

	POPULATION.			DEATHS.			DEATH-RATE.		
	Five years old and over	Under five years	Total	Five years old and over	Under five years	Total	Five years old and over	Under five years	General
Baxter Street	1,918	315	2,233	26	46	72	13.56	146.02	32.24

Mulberry Street	2,788	629	3,417	44	86	130	15.78	136.70	38.05
Total	4,706	944	5,650	70	132	202	14.87	139.83	35.75

The general death-rate for the whole city that year was 26.27.

**HOW THE OTHER HALF LIVES *STUDIES AMONG THE TENEMENTS OF NEW YORK* BY JACOB A. RIIS, WITH ILLUSTRATIONS CHIEFLY FROM PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN BY THE AUTHOR, NEW YORK, CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS, 1890**

1. How many deaths were under five years of age?
2. How does the death rate of children five years and younger compare to the general death rate of the whole city?
3. What does this chart say about Baxter and Mulberry Streets in comparison to the other areas of the city?

**Document B:** Samuel Gompers, a cigar maker, helped found the American Federal of Labor in 1886 and served as its president for nearly 40 years. The AFL quickly grew to be a powerful union at the turn of the century. Gompers rejected radical efforts for comprehensive labor reform. Instead he solidified the union's core membership by concentrating efforts on wage reform and hours of work. The following is an excerpt from a speech he delivered in 1890 in Louisville, Kentucky, in which thousands gathered to demonstrate for an 8 hour working day.

"....The man who works the long hours has no necessities except the barest to keep body and soul together, so he can work. He goes to sleep and dreams of work;....so that he can get that little rest that he may be able to go to work again. He is nothing but a veritable machine. He lives to work instead of working to live. My friends, the only thing the working people need besides the necessities of life, is time. Time. Time with which our lives begin; ...time to cultivate the better nature within us; time to brighten our homes. ...time....so that we can raise men to a higher plane....we live in the age of electricity...we find that the easier it is to produce the harder it is to live. We do want more, and when it becomes more, we shall still want more. And we shall never cease to demand more until we have received the results of our labor."

4. What is the AFL trying to do for the working person?
5. What does he mean by "time to cultivate the better nature within us; to brighten our homes"?
6. Why do you think Gompers rejected radical efforts to reform things and instead used rallies, such as this one?

**Document C:**

The following is an excerpt regarding a family living in a tenement in New York. Taken from the Tenement Museum Project

In 1901 Abram and Zippe Heller left their home in Telz, Lithuania for the United States. Somewhere during their journey, the Hellers became Abraham and Fannie Rogarshevsky. Though life in America brought other changes, the Rogarshevskys never abandoned their ties to their old home. Indeed, New York's community of Lithuanian immigrants supported the family in their most dire times of need.

The Rogarshevskys found other constants in America, including their apartment at 97 Orchard Street. They moved to the building sometime between 1907 and 1910. By then, the family had ballooned to eight members. Squeezing everyone into a modest three-room apartment took great creativity, especially come bedtime. The kitchen was transformed into a bedroom for the girls, while a couch in the front room became a makeshift bed for the boys. Abraham found work as a presser in a crowded garment shop. However, the long hours of lifting heavy irons in the dark, airless factory eventually took their toll. After fifteen years at the job, Abraham had become gaunt and easily exhausted; he was plagued by a persistent cough and chest pains. Abraham suffered from tuberculosis...Abraham Rogarshevsky passed away on Friday, July 12, 1918...Not only did she have to rebuild her life without Abraham, but she needed a way to pay rent and support herself...Like Fannie, one of the landlords came to the Lower East Side from Lithuania. It was this connection that perhaps led him to hire Fannie to be the building's "janitress." In exchange, she was able to live in her old apartment, free of charge...

Fannie stayed in the tenement for nearly twenty more years. Even though the other tenants were evicted in 1935, she was able to stay and clean the eighteen empty apartments. It wasn't until 1941 that Fannie left the building, moving a dozen blocks away to the Vladeck Houses, one of the nation's first public housing projects.

7. Where were Fannie and Abraham from?
8. How was Fannie helped by the effects of urbanization?

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