CAPTAINS OF INDUSTRY OR ROBBER BARONS?

A PRESS CONFERENCE

It was an era of economic growth, industrial expansion, turbulent politics and a swell of immigration.

Transportation, communications and industry grew at historically high rates.

A few individuals became wealthy while many Americans lived in poverty.

Were these wealthy men Captains of Industry or were they Robber Barons?

We will discover what they really were through a press conference.

ROLES

HISTORICAL ACTOR:

1. Plays the part of the industrialist
2. Takes the time to read all background information provided and to understand the ideas and beliefs of assigned person
3. Helps others in team to understand his/her perspective
4. Takes on personality of assigned person.
5. Makes opening statement on his or her position
6. Is ready to answer questions from Press Corp

ASSISTANT TO THE ACTOR:

1. Takes notes on graphic organizer
2. Introduces actor at the beginning of the press conference.
3. Sits next to or behind actor.
4. Assists actor in answering any questions during the press conference.

FRIENDLY REPORTERS:

1. Responsible to make sure everyone on the team understands the ideas and beliefs of the actor.
2. Asks friendly questions to the actor during the press conference to make the actor look good and bring out the perspective the team believes in.

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTER:

1. Remaining members of the team
2. Responsible for anticipating and preparing the Actor for any hostile questions that may be asked.
3. Researches the other teams' ideas that support or oppose their own
4. Prepares questions to ask the other teams in an effort to expose their weaknesses

GRAPHIC ORGANIZER

ROBBER BARON OR CAPTAIN OF INDUSTRY?

1. Describe wealth and how it was acquired
2. Relationship with workers, public or labor unions
3. How industrialist used profits and spent his money
4. Where was money donated?
5. Other information found
6. Would you categorize this person as a Robber Baron or Captain of Industry?
7. Why? List 3 reasons. 1. 2. 3.

PRESS CONFERENCE BRIEFS

Snapshots of all the historical characters.

Leland Stanford	Andrew Carnegie
C. Vanderbuilt	JP Morgan
J Hill	J Gould
Henry Frick	JD Rockefeller

Group Instructions

1. Assign each member of the team a role. (See role sheet.)
2. Go over roles and assign each group member to a role.
3. Have a volunteer from the group read the biography of the industrialist.
4. Historical actor makes a nametag.
5. Each group member should work on his or her assigned role.
6. Group comes back together to share work.
7. Group hears opening statement and gives feedback.
8. Reporters share their questions with group and revise if necessary.
9. Press Conference Begins

Number off 1-8

1. Leland Stanford
2. Andrew Carnegie
3. C. Vanderbuilt
4. JP Morgan
5. J Hill
6. J Gould
7. Henry Frick
8. JD Rockefeller

Have fun!!!