Progressive Era DBQ: Which Reform is the Top Priority?
Why should the government focus on fixing this problem?

Document A


Any fool can destroy trees. They cannot run away; and if they could, they would still be destroyed--chased and hunted down as long as fun or a dollar could be got out of their barks and hides (skin)...It took more than three thousand years to make some of the trees in these western woods--trees that are still standing in perfect strength and beauty, waving and singing in the mighty forests of the Sierras [Mountains]. Through all the wonderful, eventful centuries since Christ's time--and long before that--God has cared for these trees, saved them from drought (lack of rain), disease, avalanches...and floods; but He cannot save them from fools--only Uncle Sam can do that.

Document B

Source: USGS, U.S. Forestry Service, 2006

Each dot represents 25,000 acres of unlogged (never been cut down) forest.
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Document C

Source: Lewis Hines, National Child Labor Committee Report, 1911.

The boys working in the breaker are bent double, with little chance to relax; the air at times is dense (filled) with coal-dust, which penetrates (goes in) so far into the passages of the lungs that for long periods after the boy leaves the breaker, he continues to cough up the black coal dust. Fingers are calloused (rough) and cut by the coal and slate (rock), the noise and monotony (repetition) are deadening...While I was in the region, two breaker boys of 15 years...fell or were carried by the coal down into the car below. One was badly burned and the other smothered to death.

Note: Breaker boys were often located just outside the mine next to a machine (called a breaker) where they sorted and separated the coal from slate rock.

Document D

Source: Library of Congress, Prints and Photo Division. Photo by Lewis Hines, 1911

View of the Ewen Breaker, Pennsylvania Coal Company
**Document E**

**Note:** In 1889, Jane Addams co-founded Hull House, a settlement house in Chicago.

A woman’s simplest duty...is to keep her house clean and wholesome (morally good) and to feed her children properly. Yet if she lives in a tenement house, as so many of my neighbors do, she cannot fulfill these simple obligations (responsibilities) by her own efforts because she is utterly (completely) dependent upon the city’s administration (government) for the conditions which make decent living possible. Her basement will not be dry, her stairways will not be fireproof...She cannot even secure untainted (disease free) meat for her household...

...(If) woman would fulfill (meet) her traditional responsibility to her own children...then she must bring herself to use the ballot...American women need this...to preserve (keep up) the home.

**Document F**

**Source:** Library of Congress image
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Document G


Note: *The Jungle* was a novel that described the conditions in the Chicago meat-packing industry

There was never the least attention paid to what was cut up for sausage...There would be meat that had tumbled out on the floor, in the dirt and sawdust, where the workers had tramped (stepped) and spit...There would be meat stored in great piles in rooms; and the water from leaky roofs would drip over it, and thousands of rats would race about on it. It was too dark in these storage places to see well, but a man could run his hand over these piles of meat and sweep off handfuls of the dried dung (poop) of rats. These rats were nuisances (pests), and the packers would put poisoned bread out for them; they would die, and then rats, bread and meat would go into the hoppers (machine to make sausage) together. This was no fairy story and no joke; the meat would be shoveled into carts, and the man who did the shoveling would not trouble to lift out a rat even if he saw one.

Document H

Source: Library of Congress, c. 1909

Meat packing house