Newspaper project for US History – Mrs. Dille

As our first project for this year, our class will design and write a newspaper from 1898! Working in pairs, (yes, you make work 3 together if you check with me) students will write articles, ads, letters to the editor, and cartoons for their paper.

A newspaper is published in sections, the Front Page covering national and international news, the City or Metro section covering local city news, the Business section covering commercial news, the Sports section covering sporting events, and the “Style” or “Life” section covering human interest and entertainment news. In addition, a newspaper from 1898 would have ads, letters to the editor, columns by editors, and political cartoons. There were very few cartoons or comics at this time. You and your partner(s) will need to write at least 1 article for each section. Below is a list of events or new ideas for each section.

Front Page: Write about:
- A New Invention
- A Railway disaster
- An Immigration Problem
- A Factory
- The Homestead Strike
- The Spanish American War
- The Temperance Movement
- The Women’s Suffrage Movement

Metro:
- Urban Problems: for example, articles on poverty, immigration, overcrowded, unsafe tenements, disease epidemics, unsafe work conditions, child labor, strikes, demonstrations, political corruption and crime
- Urban Solutions: laws to reform government, shorten the workday, limit child labor, stop political corruption, and improve education for children

Business:
- Inventions
- Formation of Corporations or Trusts
- Stock Offerings in new companies
- Take Overs and Buy Outs
- Trust Busting legislation and lawsuits

Sports:
- Baseball and Football became popular

Ads:
- Mass produced goods
- New inventions
- Help Wanted Ads for the factories

Opinion/Editorial:
- Spanish American War
Unions
Urban Problems
Need for immigration laws
Need for business and political reform laws
Temperance
Women’s Suffrage
Political cartoons on any of the above

Your articles should be typed. You may use the computers in my room, the computer lab or the library to produce your articles. Insofar as possible, the finished product should look like a real newspaper, with headings, different type sizes and illustrations. A list of good web sites to visit is on the back board in my room. Use your imagination. This is not a research paper. It will be graded as follows:

Contents reflect an accurate understanding of the urbanization and industrial growth that took place in the United States by 1898

Contents reflect an accurate understanding of the United States recognition as a World Power after the Spanish American War

Contents reflect an accurate understanding of the problems caused by industrialization and the reform movement to address these problems in 1898.

Each paper should have a minimum of 10 separate pieces, 2 from each main group above, (5 produced by each student in the group.) If a student chooses to include more than 5 articles, I will base the grade on the best of those submitted. The student’s name should appear on each article in some form (author, cartoonist, editor, advertiser, business owner, etc.).

Rubric:

Historical accuracy 10 points per article/or piece (50 points)
Coverage of 5 different issues 25 points
Graphics and illustrations 15 points
Neat, visually appealing layout 10 points