

Example

Your Person's Name

Your Name



**Center it both Horizontally
AND
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Ms. Abrahams

U.S. History Period ____

Date

Example

Samuel Gompers

I. Early Life

A. Birth

1. He was born on born on January 27, 1850 in a London tenement (McGuire and Wheeler).

B. Family life

1. Gompers' father was a Dutch-Jewish cigarmaker (Harvey 4).
2. While in London, his paternal grandfather lived in the apartment above his family. He was very close to his grandfather and credits him later in live for influencing him as a young child (McGuire and Wheeler).
3. Samuel had four younger brothers ("Samuel").
4. In 1863, the Gompers family immigrated to America, settling in New York City. At this point Samuel, age 13, began working in a cigar factory ("Samuel").

C. Education

1. From the age of six to ten Gompers attended the Jewish Free School in Bell Lane in London where he was educated in Hebrew and French. He was a fast learner and excellent student ("Samuel").
2. "Gompers improved his intellect by hearing lectures at the Cooper Union and taking part in the debates among workers at the cigar shop" (McGuire and Wheeler).

D. Career/Occupations

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For each fact, cite the source

1st word on works cited

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1. At the age of 10, his father set Samuel up to work as a shoemaker's apprentice. Yet, Samuel did not like the trade so he soon became an apprentice to a cigar maker (Harvey 6).
2. In 1868, he joined the Cigar makers International Union (CMIU) where he began realizing that he wanted to work on behalf of all of the workers to ensure that new technologies would benefit the workers as well as the employers ("Samuel").
3. "In 1881, when Gompers was thirty-one years old, he wrote a series of articles in a German-language newspaper in New York City, the New Yorker Volkszeitung (New York Peoples' Newspaper), describing the living and working conditions of people who worked in cigar factories located in tenement houses" ("Samuel").
4. In 1886, Gompers helped to establish the American Federation of Labor (AFL) and was elected their first president (Harvey 46).

II. Progressive Reform—workers' rights

A. Created organization of skilled workers (unions)

1. He was key in helping the AFL's membership grow to about 2 million by 1914 (McGuire and Wheeler).
2. Focused shorter hours
 - a) He said, "where the hours of labor are long, men are cheap, and where men are cheap there is no necessity for invention. How can you expect a man to work ten or twelve or fourteen hours at his calling and then devote any time to the invention of a machine or discovery of a new principle or force?" (Gompers).
 - b) Gompers spoke about the benefits of shortened hours saying, "men under the short-hour system not only have opportunity to

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improve themselves, but to make a greater degree of prosperity for their employers” (Gompers).

c) He campaigned long and persistently for the implementation of the eight-hour workday throughout his career (McGuire and Wheeler).

3. Fought for better working conditions

a) “Gompers concentrated on the abolition of tenement sweatshops in New York in the early 1880s” (“Samuel”).

b) His goal was to create unions that were comprised of skilled workers and then organize them locally, regionally, and statewide (McGuire and Wheeler).

B. Supported political candidates who were pro-labor

1. He worked to re-elect Woodrow Wilson in 1916 since he was in favor of the labor movement. Gompers’ AFL gave Wilson 2 million votes that were instrumental in his victory in the election (“Samuel”).

2. President Wilson was key in the creation of the Department of Labor, which worked to regulate working conditions (“Samuel”).

C. Racial issues in unions

1. “Gompers supported black participation in trade unions for many years. He tried to keep segregated unions out of the early A.F. of L.” (“Samuel”).

2. In the end, he was not successful in the integration of labor unions. He was overwhelmed by racism and nativism in white America and finally ended up supporting a segregated union (“Samuel”).

III. Legacy

A. As labor reformer

1. Most historians consider him the most influential American labor leader (“Samuel”).

2. At the time, when most workers were fighting for “socialist goals in the late 19th century, Gompers turned the main trade union movement of skilled workers against radical politics. He accepted the giant corporation as an inevitable part of industrial capitalism and technological progress” (“Samuel”).
3. His commitment to “business unionism” helped to ensure that his labor movement was successful when most labor movements of the time failed (“Samuel”).
4. Even after Gompers’ death in 1924, the AFL was revived during the Great Depression “in 1935 when the federal government under Democratic president Franklin Roosevelt moved decisively to protect the rights of unions and workers” (“Samuel”).

Example

Works Cited

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longer than
1 line**



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Alphabetical order
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