US History 11 Summer Reading Assignment 2014

*Triangle: The Fire That Changed America* by David Von Drehle

US History Essay ____________________

Hoffman

**Due date:** ______________

**Length:** Four full pages or more, typed, double-spaced

**Source:** *Triangle: The Fire That Changed America* by David Von Drehle

Imagine that you are one of the real people caught up in the Triangle fire or its aftermath—an owner, a worker, a politician, social worker, or attorney who participated in the legal/political consequences of the fire. You may choose, but are not limited to, any of the following people: Alva Smith Vanderbilt Belmont, Samuel Bernstein, Max Blanck, Rosie Freedman, Samuel Gompers, Isaac Harris, Clara Lemlich, Theresa Serber Malkiel, Michaela Marciano, Anne Morgan, Charles F. Murphy, Frances Perkins, Max Steuer, Charles Whitman.

Then, write a monologue of about four pages in which your chosen person explains her/his analysis of the fire—why it started and whose fault it was, why the death toll was so large, how the laws should be modified to prevent another, similar disaster in the future. In the course of the monologue, incorporate factual information about the person and the fire that is mentioned in the book or at the Cornell University website, [http://www.ilr.cornell.edu/trianglefire/](http://www.ilr.cornell.edu/trianglefire/) and write in a well-developed “voice,” so that you will present the most realistic look at your character possible. As you write, also explain the reasoning why your character believes what she/he does. (100 pts.)

**Vocabulary words for Triangle (numbers refer to pages in the text):**

**A. Economics and politics:**
- capitalism
- class struggle 82
- conservation 21
- disability insurance 196
- elitism and populism 22
- graft 16
- lobby/lobbyist 199
- New Deal 201
- Progressivism 3
- regulation 180
- socialism 3
- suffragism 68
- Tammany Hall 21

**B. Immigration**
- assimilation
- *Bintel Brief* 98
- Ellis Island 96ff
- *goldene medina* 91
- greenhorn 9
- *Jewish Daily Forward*
- *The Melting Pot* 33-34
- Pale of Settlement 91
- pogrom 90
- stetl 9
- tenements
C. New York City

Ashcan Painters 198
The Bowery
brothel
Delmonico’s
demimonde
Gibson Girl 45-6
Greenwich Village
Hell’s Kitchen
Lower East Side
Misery Lane
settlement houses 196
shirtwaist/waist 44
The Tombs 65
Washington Square
“white slavery” 15

D. Unions

AF of L 17
“bread and butter issues” 83
overtime pay 114
ILGWU 8
strikebreakers 16
sweatshop 38
wildcat strikes 8
workers’ compensation 196
WTUL 15