

***The Grapes of Wrath*, Akron Rubber Strikes, and Today**

Lesson for October 23, 2012

Background

1. Be sure to have your *Grapes of Wrath* reflection in print form.
2. Come prepared to engage your classmates and French visitors with the following: the pro-union/anti-union comments in the paper you read and your thoughts; the events during the 1930s strikes in Akron and on current day economic/union issues; your position regarding class conflict.
3. Our French visitors will also bring some expertise to the table, including U.S. industrialization, the roots of the crisis depicted in *Grapes of Wrath*, and Charlie Chaplin's *Modern Times*.
 - you already have most of your feelings and argument on paper, just be sure you're able to articulate it and expand upon it on October 23.

Possible Product Topics:

1. The Grapes of Wrath (What is the struggle being suggested by Steinbeck? What was the cause of the story told in *Grapes*? Provide specific examples from *Grapes* to support your statements. Provide comparisons to modern day economic struggles. What answers exist?)
2. Akron economic struggles (The point of the 1930s rubber strikes and any accomplishments and which side was right in that struggle. Provide specific examples to support your statements. Provide comparisons to modern day economic struggles. What answers exist?)
3. Industry (The pros and cons of industry and the impacts industry has had, historic and modern. Provide specific examples to support your statements. Provide comparisons to modern day economic struggles. What answers exist?)

Your grade will depend on:

- your ability to engage others (listening and talking); group cooperation
- remain on topic
- use references from the readings or current events to support your position and comments
- page written explanation of your created product
- the product you create with your partners and the presentation of the product
 - Product could be a flyer that explains what your group found to be the most important topic discussed, referencing sources to support your claims.
 - Product could be a poster that illustrates and explains what your group found to be the most important topic discussed, referencing sources to support your claims.