

GROWTH AND REFORM**Enrichment: Write a Pamphlet****Reform**

During the 1800s, many people put their religious beliefs into practice by working for reform. Workers in the abolition and temperance movements sought to eliminate slavery and alcohol abuse, respectively. Others worked to improve conditions in public schools and penitentiaries. Often, reformers commonly used pamphlets to get their message to others. In these pamphlets, reformers used emotional language to persuade people to join or support their cause.

Your assignment: Alone or with a partner, select and conduct further research on one of the reform movements discussed in this chapter. Use your findings to create a pamphlet that examines the historical context for the movement, the state of the movement today, any current problems the movement may confront, and proposes solutions.

Suggested materials: note cards to organize your research; colored pens and markers, pencils, sheets of paper, glue, rulers

Suggested procedures:

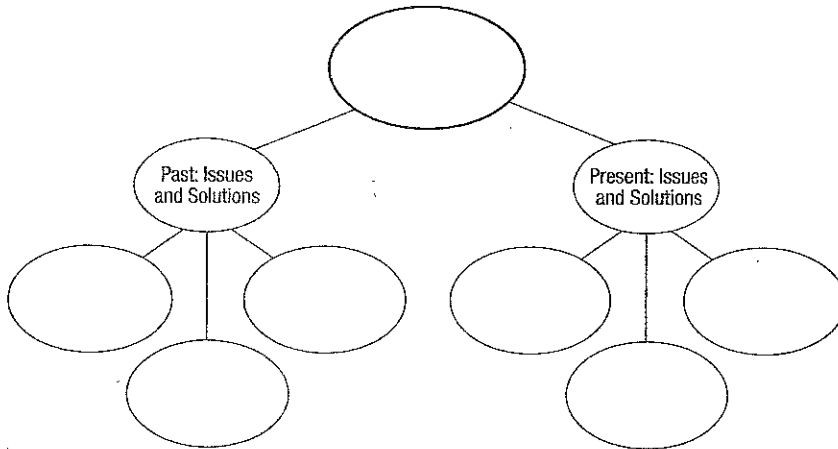
1. Research the reform movement that you selected. What main issues did it address? What solutions did reformers suggest? Use the idea web on the next page to organize your research.
2. Find information about the current state of your reform movement in the United States or in the world. For example, if you chose public school reform, you can research to learn about the issues that people have with public schools today, as well as any proposed solutions. Include these items in the chart on the next page. Narrow your list of issues to two or three that you want to present to the class.
3. Develop content for your pamphlet. Be sure to include both the historical information and current issues. In the past, pamphlets were based on a combination of fact-based arguments and emotional appeals. Your text should include a balance of facts and appeals, as well as illustrations. Be prepared to respond your classmates' challenges to the arguments you present.
4. Prepare the pamphlet for your presentation. Practice your presentation. Remember to encourage support for reform clearly and passionately, as an activist would have done in the past and would still do today.
5. Display the pamphlet and give a short speech in support of your cause. You may wish to pass your pamphlet around or to make copies and distribute your pamphlet to your classmates. A sample pamphlet is shown on the following page.

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Directions: Use a web like the one below to organize your research. Refer to the sample pamphlet provided for layout ideas.



Sample Pamphlet on Public School Funding

Join Us Now!

Free public education lifted our nation out of poverty and ignorance.

Since the 1800s, public schools have been available to all American children, regardless of income.

Don't let that tradition perish!

It Mattered Then, and It Matters Now

Support your school—
Fund education

The Granger Collection, New York

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