

The Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906: The Reinvention & Enhancement of the Food Industry

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Senior Group Website

Website Word Count: 1,165

Multimedia Time: 2:06

Process Paper Word Count: 498

National History Day 2024: Turning Points in History

Process Paper

How We Chose Our Topic:

Prior to our knowledge of this year's theme, we were set on the idea of exploring the history of Nascar. However, subsequent to being informed of the 2024 category, complications arose when attempting to find reliable sources. We decided to broaden our horizons and pursue a new topic. After brainstorming, we were assisted by our teacher and were suggested *The Pure Food and Drug Act Of 1906*. Thus, we conducted additional research on the legislation and were hooked from the start. *The Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906* was a pivotal enactment due to its advancements in converting food regulation laws, then creating the first consumer protection agency.

How We Conducted Our Research:

The Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906 is an in-depth subject with various branches, perspectives, and key details to account. We utilized various resources including databases, websites, videos, quotes, and books to strengthen our claims and further our research. Initially, we analyzed *The Jungle* by Upton Sinclair, a novel which advocates against the unsanitary conditions within the meat-packing industry. *The Jungle* enhanced our knowledge on *The Pure Food and Drug Act (1906)*. For example, we learned about Harvey Wiley, a major contributor who pushed this legislation. Moreover, we discovered how the act evolved into the Food and Drug Administration and expanded our knowledge.

How We Chose To Do A Website:

As a majority, we have experience constructing an NHD website, so we believed it was logical to create a website once again. We prefer a digital approach when compiling this project, as it is more organized for us as a group. To construct our website, we carefully selected sources which corresponded to each following page. A mixture of primary and secondary sources, combined with complimentary decoration, allows our website to flourish.

Our Historical Argument:

Our topic, *The Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906*, represented a critical turning point in history by correcting the gruesome state of the commercial industry. This act ensured improved conditions of the labor force, commercial goods, and overall human health. Previously, food products could

contain harmful chemical additives such as borax. Due to the crucial nature of *The Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906*, the legislation is confirmed as a Turning Point in History.

How Our Project Relates To The Theme Turning Points in History:

The Pure Food And Drug Act of 1906 follows the theme Turning Points In History, as the 1906 enactment allowed for regulation and control of the food and drug industry. Prior to the Act, consumer goods were adulterated with hazardous supplements. *The Pure Food and Drug Act (1906)* improved the health of consumers, because it regulated the manufacturing and transportation of consumer foods and drugs. Consequently, *The Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906* developed into the Food and Drug Administration. The goal of the FDA is to protect public health by regulating everyday commodities. The FDA regulates many products used today in the life of Americans.