**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

Perhaps there has never been a time in American history that is as similar to the early nineteenth century as today. With economic uncertainty, government and big business corruption, and the overwhelming sense and urge for change in the country one could draw many parallels between these two time periods. Therefore, it is essential for students to understand the events of the past so that they can apply those events and lessons to the current state of things in order to make decisions that could help to fix the problems of the present. However, students today are overwhelmed with information which can be accessed at amazing speeds and quantities from a multitude of sources which can be either reliable or not.

Despite the wealth of resources at students finger tips, often times they view the world through very narrow vision almost as if the events that are happening around them are somehow unique to just them and being experienced for the first time. However, history shows us that events often happen in a reoccurring cycle and events often repeat themselves despite knowledge of them. Therefore, equipping students with the knowledge of past events such as the progressive era can help students living in the present take the ideas and actions of previous movements to help advance society.

Ultimately this is the main reason for the unit on Progressivism and the Progressive reforms not to mention that it is an essential part of the Ohio Academic Content Standards set forth by the Ohio Department of Education. Students will be given the opportunity to look at the events and reforms of the early 19th century United States and use that to make critical decisions that could impact the future of their classroom, school, community, or even country.