Gilded Age DBQ Essay

Combine the information in these documents with the knowledge you learned in the unit to answer the essay question. Your essay must use both information from the documents AND outside information.

When using info from the docs, make sure to cite them. (ex- Doc 1)

Document 1

Source: Herman Viola, *Why We Remember: United States History*, Scott Foresman–Addison Wesley Publishing Co. (adapted)
**Document 2**

*The Bosses of the Senate*

![Cartoon illustration of the Senate with various trusts and monopolies labeled.]

Source: Joseph J. Keppler, *Puck*, 1889 (adapted)

**Document 3**

*America Becomes Urbanized*

![Bar chart showing urban and rural population growth from 1860 to 1930.]

Source: U. S. Census (adapted)
You are going to write an analytical essay that also uses information that you learned in the documents used above. This is called a document-based essay, or a “DBQ.”

Combine the information in these documents with the knowledge you learned in the unit to answer the essay question. Your essay must use both information from the documents AND outside information.

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Essay -

This is an essay response. In your essay you will need to have a thesis statement, cite multiple events with specific historical evidence and close with a conclusion that analyzes the outcome. You should have at least THREE essential claims to support your thesis (three specific body paragraphs).

Analyze how new immigration groups, massive industrialization, and growth in urbanization changed America. Make sure, in your analysis, to distinguish how these three major changes changed America and also decide in your thesis which of the three caused the most amount of change. Make sure you argue why your selection caused more change than the other two.

Remember, you must cite the documents above and use facts and knowledge you learned from completing the lessons or in online research.
America changed in many ways during the 1800’s and 1900’s, one of the most major being the people who lived in the US, the conditions of where they lived, and the jobs and companies they worked for. Hundreds of thousands of immigrants travelled to America in the 1800’s leaving behind all they had a home and hoping for a better life here. This huge sweep of immigrants changed the way companies and factories operated and led to the growing of monopolies in the US. Big cities boomed and the urban areas of the United States quickly overpopulated. These impacts on America changed the American life forever and continue to affect Americans today.

The US was often referred to as the “Mixing Pot” in the early 1900’s. This is because all the different cultures and beliefs and religions of the immigrants blended together when the huge masses of them started to pour in from all over the world into Ellis and Angel Island. During the seventy year period between 1860 and 1930, the population in urban areas of the US, doubled or more than doubled itself every decade (Doc 3). This huge increase in population was due to the amounts of immigrants coming in. The immigrants soon started filling jobs in the US, making and trading craft and immigrant parents were encouraged to send their children to school, where the students were quickly “Americanized” (McDougal 490).

While immigrants were encouraged to send their children to school, in many families that needed the money, children were viewed as part of the family economy and were sent to work in factories under harsh conditions at the young age of four. In 1904, investigators sent out by the national Child Labor Committee collected evidence of children working in these harsh conditions. The First Factory Law of Illinois was passed in 1893, stating, “Children under 14 years prohibited from being employed in any manufacturing establishment, factory or workshop in the state.” (Doc 4). Industrialism and the building of railroads was also very big in this era. Companies began to monopolize the other and outsell the competition. This was unfair to smaller companies who were getting all their business stolen from them by big brand name companies who seemed to rule the “senate” (Doc 2).
With the huge increase in population in urban areas, the area had to adapt. Skyscrapers were built, factories updated, electric transportation installed all helping to advance the large cities thousands of people lived in (McDougal 483). As a result of all the people living in these small spaces, illness and germs quickly spread, the streets and apartments were overcrowded, unsanitary and hazardous to their health. Many living tenements were unaffordable and lots of people lived in one small apartment just to pay rent. Although the living conditions weren’t great, they were typically close to work, in the center of the city and convenient for the immigrants to inhabit and it was really the only choice they had.

America was greatly affected by a great deal of things in the late 1800’s into the early 1900’s. The most noteworthy were the new immigration groups, massive industrialization and growth in urbanization. An increase in immigration groups changed the US in unimaginable ways, without the immigrants nothing in the US would have changed and nothing else would have been affected. Massive Industrialization not only improved and created laws that still exist and are relevant to today, but also opened the eyes of the government as to what kind of business was fair and not. Results of growth in urbanization are prevalent in today’s society, the creation of skyscrapers and electric transit were iconic in history. Overall, many things changed America; the most important were thanks to the people living here.