# Process Paper

I chose the topic of 19th century industrialization and how it contributed to the quality of life in America because last October I attended the Volleyball Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and Gala, which took place in a renovated mill. I was fascinated by the historic exhibits in the mill, and explored the parts of the building which had not yet been fully renovated.

I began my research looking for primary sources addressing lifestyle of a mill town. I found the journal of William Cobbett Skinner, the son of a prosperous silk mill owner, even though it was difficult to find a journal that was both legitimate and had a transcription. I found it difficult to find a good scholarly journal article, until I discovered Google Scholar, a search engine specific to scholarly journal articles, books, and legal documents. I used this to find the article Two Worlds in One: Work and Family, which discusses the evolution of work and family roles during the industrial revolution. I also found and article by Wayne W. LaMorte outlining progression in health throughout the industrial era, as well as an article describing German and Irish immigration during the 19th century, also containing a primary source giving insight to the desperate need to emigrate. These particular sources helped me to develop the structure of my argument.

The causes of industrialization originate way back to the colonization of America, when English Parliament put restrictions on colonial trade, as well as later when Jefferson’s Embargo Act was passed. These brought about a need to learn how to manufacture our own goods, and after establishing a solid government and beginning to expand west, the industrialization began. While there were many issues with health and lifestyle during the industrialization era, it brought with it many important advancements in health and invention. Combined with economic opportunity and immigration creating a solid middle class, the effects of industry in the 19th century were overall beneficial to the quality of life in America. In the early 1900’s, companies like Ford were able to employ and market toward middle class citizens, because of the growth of the class during industrialization. Some companies like Bethlehem Steel were created during industrialization, and continued to supply jobs for decades to come. Also, the industrialization provided many jobs for women, particularly in clothing manufacturing, and tasks women were previously skilled in. The increase in jobs for women helped set the stage for the women’s rights movement.