**SOLVING THE PROBLEMS OF BIG BUSINESS**

Directions: Pretend you are the President of the United States. It is time to deliver your annual State of the Union Address to Congress. This speech is used to suggest potential legislation that Congress should enact to solve the problems facing the nation.

Assume the year is 1890 and that the problems listed below currently face the country. They were created by rapid expansion of business and industry in the second half of the 19th century. Think of some laws which you think should be passed by Congress in order to correct these problems. On a separate sheet of paper, write a speech that clearly describes your proposals. Your speech should be at least **THREE** **paragraphs** in length, with **5-8 sentences** in each paragraph.

**Problems of 1890:**

1. Factory owners demand that their workers be on the job for 12 hours a day, 6 days a week.
2. A man earns 15 cents per hour, and women and children earn even less.
3. Some operations of mines and factories employ children as young as 7 years old.
4. Big business has tried to prevent the formation of labor unions.
5. Some big companies have cut their prices in order to drive small companies out of business. Once becoming a monopoly, or “trust,” they raise prices because there is no longer any competition.
6. Big business gives large sums of money to government officials in exchange for political favors. Many local and state lawmakers, and even certain members of Congress, are now under the influence of big business.
7. Some businesses make huge sums of money, but pay no taxes.
8. Too many natural resources are being wasted by business and industry.