

HANDOUT 1
Group Research Instruction Sheet

Research your assigned position on the "free silver" issue, using library reference materials, your textbook, and Internet sources. Answer the questions below from your assigned perspective. Be prepared to report this information to a committee in two days. Each committee member must take part in the testimony.

Group

Members

1. Eastern industrialists

2. Western farmer debtors

3. Silver miners

4. Labor

5. Treasury Department employees

6. Gold standard advocates (*monometallists*)

7. Congressional committee members

Groups 1-6:

Answer the following questions. Then develop answers into a three-minute presentation to the special committee on silver. Be as factual and convincing as possible!

- What group are you representing?

- Would your group be in favor of free coinage of silver? Why or why not?

- What factors during the late 1880s may have contributed to your position? Explain.

- How might coinage of silver affect your interests? Explain.

Group 7:

Research the Sherman Silver Purchase Act of 1890, and report on that information. Who did the act please? Why? Was the act successful?