Optional Paper Assignment #2 – David Nasaw, *Children of the City*

If you choose to write this essay, it will be due in class on Tuesday, March 15th. Please bring a stapled, hard copy with you to class.

**WRITING CENTER**

You can make an appointment with one of the writing tutors to go over a draft of this assignment. Call the History Department office at 818 677-3566 and tell them you are a student in History 271 with Dr. Devine and would like to make an appointment at the Writing Center.

Before your meeting, the tutor will read the draft that you submitted. It must be a complete draft. He or she will then discuss with you ways to improve your draft. You may resubmit your paper up to a week after your appointment with the tutor. I will grade the revised version.

I strongly suggest taking advantage of this opportunity. Grades on revised assignments are nearly always higher than what a first draft would have received, and the meeting with the tutor is likely to help you improve your writing.

**DIRECTIONS** (Read and follow them.)

**How Long?**

• Papers **MUST be 1200 words** and no more than 1900 words.

**Format?**

• Typed, double-spaced, 12-point font with one-inch margins all around.

• Please remember to number your pages.

• Give your essay a **title** that indicates what the paper is about. (Something more revealing than “Essay #1” or “Twain”) Clever titles will be duly noted.

• Base your essay **only** on the assigned course reading. Come up with your own ideas and arguments, don’t regurgitate whatever you find on Spark Notes or some other online sources.

**Don’t forget to put your name at the top of page 1 of the essay.** (People actually forget to do this.)
How to cite?

If you are quoting directly from Nasaw’s book, cite the author and page number in parentheses within the body of the text, i.e. (Nasaw, 47).

All direct quotes MUST be in quotation marks and must be cited, otherwise you are plagiarizing.

It is not necessary to include a works cited page.

How will I be graded?

You will be graded on:

1) **focus** (do you have a thesis statement and does it answer the question asked?)

2) **evidence** (do you back up your argument adequately with specific information from the reading?)

3) **coherence** (is your argument consistent and understandable throughout the piece?)

4) **scope** (does your paper deal with the question in appropriate depth and breadth?)

If you have any questions or are in any way unsure about what you are being asked to do, be sure to speak with me via email or in person.

THE ASSIGNMENT

Answer **ONE** of the following three questions:

1. How did urbanization, industrialization, and immigration give young people more **freedom** at the turn of the 20th Century? In particular, how did these forces give them **leverage** over their parents that children had not had previously?

2. Why did urban children and adolescents come into **conflict** with Progressive reformers during the early part of the twentieth century?

3. How did money – having it, not having it, working for it, spending it – shape the **lives and values** of the children discussed in David Nasaw’s *Children of the City*?