Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_

**Reformers of the Early Nineteenth Century**

**Speed Dating Activity**

**Antebellum Reform period:** The years between 1820 and 1865 in the United States can be described as a long era of reform, marked by strong desire to change individuals and society as a whole. The movements that arose during this period focused on specific issues including: temperance, abolitionism, changes in incarceration, women’s and workers rights, and establishing social welfare agencies and public schools.

For this exercise you willaccurately assume the character of an early nineteenth century reformer. You will then engage in 2-minute conversations with other reformers, trying to learn the most you can about them while also “selling” yourself. To prepare, you must research your assigned individual and answer the following six questions, creating a written résumé that includes a picture, dates of life, and information that answers the questions. You may also bring items that help identify your character—something from your individual’s past or present. (Creativity will be applauded)

**Résumé:** Each resume must include the following: Name, picture, dates of life, basic family info, education, background, occupations, known associations (with a definition), notable accomplishments, and 3 references. Each resume must also have a “job sought” paragraph at the top. This must be between 3-6 sentences long and should include long term goals and other pertinent information. \*\***It must be in proper resume format**!\*\* You will also answer following questions in the voice of the reformer. These must be typed.

Questions:

1. What is the greatest injustice in America today?
2. What methods could be used to improve American life?
3. What success did the individual have in promoting reform?
4. What is your greatest accomplishment?
5. How do you hope history remembers you?
6. To what extent were you obsessed with achieving an impractical goal through fanatical or impractical means?
7. What lasting impact did your reforms have on American society?

**How this will work...**

* During the speed dating, you will have 2 minutes to share your story and to listen to the story of the person with whom you are then paired. You will write down critical information about the goals and successes of each reformer you meet. You will also try to sell your concerns/platform and establish your own success for each person you speak with.
* At the signal, we will rotate. By the end of the period, you will have a basic understanding of all Reformers represented in class.
* When you go home, you will reflect upon these reformers’ place in early 19th century history, and type a reflection incorporating answers to the following questions:

1. List several evils that the reformers of the period 1820-1860 tried to eliminate.
2. What factors created a climate favorable to reform in the early nineteenth century?
3. What common vision of a better world did these individuals have?
4. Would you characterize these individuals as idealists or practical reformers? Explain your reasoning.
5. To what extent did these reformers achieve success in the period 1820-1860?
6. To what extent did these individuals build a foundation for the realization of reforms in a later period?

**Follow up:**

* The next day I will ask each of you to choose the **ONE reformer you feel had the most success, and the greatest impact on antebellum society. (Of course** you will need to defend your decision.)

**Characters:**

Angelina Grimke

Brigham Young

Charles Finney

Dorothea Dix

Dr. Sylvester Graham

Elizabeth Cady Stanton

Frederick Douglass

Harriet Beecher Stowe

Henry David Thoreau

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Herman Melville

Horace Mann

John Brown

John Humphrey Noyes

Joseph Smith

Lewis Tappan

Lucretia Mott

Margaret Fuller

Nathaniel Hawthorne

Neal Dow

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Robert Owen

Susan B. Anthony

Thomas Cole

William Lloyd Garrison

**Additional Reformers:**

Emma Willard

John Audubon

John Greenleaf Whittier

Lyman Beecher

Mother Ann Lee

Walt Whitman