

**Prompt: Examine the basic values of these authors. Identify if they support or oppose the New Deal and why.**

**Doc. 1**

*June 14, 1934*

*Dear Mrs. Roosevelt,*

*I know you are over burdened with requests for help and if my plea cannot be recognized, I'll understand it is because you have so many others, all of them worthy...*

*My husband and I are a young couple of very simple, almost poor families. We married eight years ago on the proverbial shoe-string but with a wealth of love...We managed to build our home and furnish it comfortably...Then came the depression. My work has continued and my salary alone has just been sufficient to make our monthly payments on the house and keep our bills paid...But with the exception of two and one-half months work with the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey under the C.W.A., my husband has not had work since August, 1932.*

*My salary could continue to keep us going, but I am to have a baby...I can get a leave of absence from my job for a year. But can't you, won't you do something so my husband can have a job, at least during that year?...*

*As I said before, if it were only ourselves, or if there were something we could do about it, we would never ask for help.*

*We have always stood on our own feet and been proud and happy. But you are a mother and you'll understand this crisis.*

*Very sincerely yours,*

*Mrs. M.H.A.*

*---Mrs. M.H.A. worked in the county courthouse in Eureka, California*

**Doc. 2**

*November 23, 1936*

*Dear President,*

*Now that we have had a land slide in the election of 1936 and done just what was best for our county...I do believe you will strain a point to help the ones who helped you mostly and that is the working class of people I am not smart or I would be in a different line of work and better up in every way yet I will know you are the one and lonely president that ever helped a working class of people...*

*I am a white man American age, 47 married wife two children in high school am a finishing room foreman and am in a furniture factory here in Paris Texas where thaire is 175 to 200 working and when*

*the NRA came in I was proud to see my fellow workmen receive 30 per hour in place of 8 cents to 20 cents per hour...*

*I can't see for my life president why a man must toil and work his life out in such factories 10 long hours every day except Sunday for a small sum of 15 cents to 35 cents per hour and pay the high cost of honest and deason living expenses...*

*Please see if something can be done to help this one class of working people the factories are a man killer not venelated or kept up just a bunch of Republickins Grafters 90/100 of them please help us some way I pray to God for relief. I am a Christian...and a truthful man and have not told you wrong and am for you to the end.*

*---unsigned letter from a factory worker in Paris, Texas*

### **Doc. 3**

*May 19, 1934*

*Dear Mrs. Roosevelt,*

*In the presidents inaugural address delivered from the capitol steps the afternoon of his inauguration he made mention of the Forgotten Man, and I with thousands of others am wondering if the folk who was borned here in America some 60 or 70 years ago are this Forgotten Man, the President had in mind, if we are this Forgotten Man then we are still Forgotten.*

*We who have tried to be diligent in our support of this most wonderful nation of ours boath social and other wise, we in our younger days tried to do our duty without complaining...*

*And now a great calamity has come upon us and seemingly no cause of our own it has swept away what little savings we had accumulated and we are left in a condition that is impossible for us to correct, for two very prominent reasons if no more.*

*First we have grown to what is termed Old Age, this befalls every man.*

*Second,...we are confronted on every hand with the young generation, taking our places, this of course is what we have looked forward to in training our children. But with the extra ordinary crises which left us helpless and placed us in the position that our fathers did not have to contend with...*

*We have been honorable citizens all along our journey, calamity and old age has forced its self upon us please do not send us to the Poor Farm but instead allow us the small pension of \$40.00 per month...*

*Mrs. Roosevelt I am asking a personal favor of you as it seems to be the only means through which I may be able to reach the President, some evening very soon, as you and Mr. Roosevelt are having dinner together privately will you ask him to read this. And we American citizens will ever remember your kindness.*

*Yours very truly.*

*R.A.*

*---R.A. was sixty-nine years old and an architect and builder in Lincoln, Nebraska.*

#### **Doc. 4**

*January 18, 1937*

*Dear Mrs. Roosevelt,*

*I...was simply astounded to think that anyone could be nitwit enough to wish to be included in the so called social security act if they could possibly avoid it. Call it by any name you wish it, in my opinion, (and that of many people I know) it is nothing but downright stealing...*

*I am not an "economic royalists," just an ordinary white collar worker at \$1,600 per year. Please show this to the president and ask him to remember the wishes of the forgotten man, that is, the one who dared to vote against him. We expect to be trampled on but we do wish the stepping would be a little less hard.*

*Security at the price of freedom is never desired by intelligent people.*

*M.A.*

*---M.A. was a woman who held a low-level salaried position in a corporation.*

#### **Doc. 5**

*December 14, 1937*

*Mrs. Roosevelt:*

*I suppose from your point of view the work relief, old age pensions, slum clearance and all the rest seems like a perfect remedy for all the ills of this country, but I would like for you to see the results, as the other half see them.*

*We have always had shiftless, never-d-well class of people whose one and only aim in life is to live without work. I have been rubbing elbows with this class for nearly sixty years and have tried to help some of the most promising and have seen others try to help them, but it can't be done. We cannot help those who will not try to help themselves and if they do try a square deal is all they need,...let each one paddle their own canoe, or sink...*

*I live alone on a farm and have not raised any crops for the last two years as there was no help to be had. I am feeding the stock and have been cutting the wood to keep my home fires burning. There are several relievers around here now who have been kicked off relief but they refuse to work unless they can get relief hours and wages, but they are so worthless no one can afford to hire them...They are just a fair sample of the class of people on whom so much of our hard earned tax-money is being squandered and on them so much sympathy is being wasted..*

*You people who have plenty of this worlds goods and whose money comes easy have no idea of the heart-breaking toil and self-denial which is the lot of the working people who are trying to make an*

*honest living, and then to have to shoulder all these unjust burdens seems like the last straw...No one should have the right to vote theirself a living at the expense of the tax payers.*

*M.A.H.*

*--M.A.H. was a widow who ran a small farm in Columbus, Indiana*