

The Industrial Age

Focus on Writing

A Business Plan

You are an inventor in the late 1800s, and you want to start a business to sell your new inventions. Write a business plan for investors that will encourage them to lend you money to start your business. As you read this chapter, gather information about the new business practices that you can use to run your business. Then write your plan. Include information about what you will sell, how you will make it, and how you can avoid conflicts with the workers who make it.

PREWRITING

- 1. Information on a Product** In your notes, list what kinds of new products became available at this time. What do you think would be a good thing to make and sell during the late 1800s?
- 2. Gathering Information on a Business** Look back over your notes and determine what new practices helped businesses expand during this time. Which practices could you use to start your business? Where would you try to sell your product?
- 3. Taking Notes on Working Conditions** In your notebook, list some reasons why industrial workers were unhappy with working conditions. Can you think of ways to run your business so that you can avoid the problem of strikes?

WRITING

- 4. Writing Your Business Plan** Collect your notes and determine a good thing to sell during the late 1800s. Decide which business practices you would use and which you would not. Write two to three paragraphs in which you explain why your product would sell, which business practices you can use to make your product, and how to avoid conflicts with workers. Remember to explain to the investors why your plan will work.

EVALUATING AND PROOFREADING

- 5. Evaluating Your Business Plan** Would your business plan convince investors of the value of your product? Have you planned how you will get your product manufactured and shipped to market and into the hands of customers? Use the questions in the rubric below to evaluate and revise your business plan.

Rubric

- Does your business plan reflect an understanding of the needs and wants of consumers during the late 1800s?

- Does your business plan state which business practices common during the late 1800s you would use to get your product manufactured? Does it state which business practices you would not use?
- Does your business plan state what your product is, and why it would sell?
- Does your business plan state how you will avoid conflict with the workers who will be making your product?
- Did you remember to explain to your potential investors why your plan will work?

6. Proofreading Your Business Plan To perfect your business plan before sharing it with others, check the following items.

- Capitalization and spelling of proper nouns
- Punctuation, grammar, and spelling