

# THE NEW DEAL: A Success or Failure



Programs created by the New Deal created millions of jobs and kept many Americans from starving to death, but that doesn't mean it wasn't controversial in its time. Many Americans were upset that the New Deal spent too much money and yielded too much power to the Federal Government. People even today debate whether the New Deal was a success or failure.

Below are a series of statements about the New Deal. **Place a S by the statements that YOU believe were a success and an F by the statements YOU believe were failures.** If you think a statement could go either way, just place an X on the line.

## Unemployment

- By 1941, the New Deal reduced unemployment by 40% (since 1933).
- The New Deal can be considered successful in reviving business and reducing unemployment

## Confidence

- The New Deal restored confidence and self-belief in the American public about the economy.
- The Fireside chats and signs of government involvement showed people that the President of the United States was working for them.

## Government Debt

- The Federal government spent millions of dollars to aid unemployed Americans, increasing our National debt to 40% of our Gross National Product. It was the highest it had ever been up to that point in time.

## Partial Recovery

- By 1937 industry and consumer spending were at 75% of their 1929 level.

## World War II

- The Second World War is why the Depression ended. Rearmament and entry into WWII in 1941 ended high unemployment.

## Limited Help and Equality

- Many of the New Deal programs were only temporary - the CCC offered work for 6-9 months.
- The AAA (Agricultural Adjustment Act) quotas led to millions of poor black farmers being evicted.
- It cost billions of dollars but failed to solve the problems permanently.

## Government

- Governments took control of the economy and used tax payers money to help the poor and unemployed.
- Republicans said New Deal only turned the unemployed into millions of government employees
- Democrats said the New Deal helped government provided jobs because industry could not.

## Business

- Businessmen/Industrialists opposed Roosevelt's interference of increased taxation and his attempts to improve worker's rights.
- Workers Trade Unions received more power under the New Deal.

## State's Rights

- The Federal government became more involved in affairs of States.
- The Federal government told State governments how to deal with the Depression.

# THE NEW DEAL: A Success or Failure

## Writing frame for: Was the New Deal a Success or a Failure?

**Introduction:** In your first paragraph, you need to start by saying what the New Deal was.

In this paragraph you need to write about some positive things about the New Deal. (Look for the letter S on the back)

**You could start like this:**

In some ways the New Deal was a success. Here are some examples...

In this paragraph you need to write about some negative things about the New Deal. (Look for the Fs on the back)

**You could start like this:** In other ways, the New Deal was a failure. Here are some examples. . .

**Conclusion:** In this paragraph you have say what you think. Do you think the New Deal was a success or failure? Summarize the reasons why.