Annotated Bibliography

Primary Sources

Periodicals


This source is similar to some others in the sense that it is an article advocating for the passage of the Federal Child Labor Amendment. However, what makes this source so important is the fact that it is not written by a member of the National Child Labor Committee, rather, it is written and published within a journal for law professionals. This was additional evidence to support how the National Child Labor Committee was able to spread their message and convince the public to support their charge. This article is a testament to the leadership of the National Child Labor Committee and the success of their efforts to raise awareness and educate the public.


This primary source newspaper article helped us to find balance in our research and make sure that we were not completely biased towards one side of the argument. This article is most certainly in favor of regulations on child labor and passing the amendment to the Constitution. However, at the same time, it looks at the reasons for why a state or an individual would disagree. Rather than just taking the standard economic benefits point of view, the author links that to a bigger picture and makes a larger connection to rivalries between certain states and regions.


This article provided statistics relating to the rise in child labor after the National Industrial Recovery Act was declared unconstitutional. We were able to notice the drastic change that even temporary national legislation made on the far-reaching issue of child slavery, and were also able to notice how quickly that was reversed when the NIRA expired. The title, “Is Child Labor Abolished?” represented the question on the minds of those advocating against child labor.


From this source, we were able to garner a better understanding of the sentiments of the National Child Labor Committee and how its leaders reacted to federal child labor laws being declared unconstitutional, as this source is an editorial that was written by the assistant secretary of the committee. The message of the committee is clear in this article, and we were prompted to divert our research to specifically understand how the public
reacted to this publication and others like it. Furthermore, this article also showed connections and similarities to other articles from the same time period that predicted a so-called “return to the past” and return to large numbers of child workers due to a lack of federal regulation.


This source is a primary source article written by Owen Lovejoy who was the Acting Secretary for the National Child Labor Committee at one point in time. The significance of the source lies in the fact that it supports our claim that state legislation of child labor was too weak and was not enforced in order to be effective. In the article, Lovejoy speaks to how easy it was for owners and businessmen to evade the law and avoid getting caught and punished. Essentially, this article just illustrated the need for strongly enforced federal legislation.


This newspaper announced that after the long campaign of the NCLC, the backing of the public, and the eventual cooperation of the states, the Fair Labor Standards Act was able to be passed, bringing a successful end to the crusade of the NCLC. The positive and final tone of the article shows that any real opposition to child labor legislation had long been forgotten. The shift in overall sentiment of the public is clear in this article, and we were able to use it on our website to provide evidence of the conclusive and effective impact of the FLSA on the welfare of children.


This newspaper article printed a letter sent to the editor from a group of messenger boys from the American District Messenger Office announcing their strike. Without a leader to rally behind, the boys took matters into their own hands. However, the response from both the public and company representatives put a quick end to their strike. The article reveals the strong desire of the children to protect their rights, but the lack of any proper leadership with the power to help them do so. This failed strike and attempt of the children to fix their problem showed us the real need for strong leadership in the fight against child labor.


This poem describes the usefulness of children in factories. The line “for children are many and cheap” summarizes one of the basic reasons why child labor was so popular during the Industrial Revolution. It was helpful in determining what the public generally agreed upon as the primary justification for hiring children. The poem singles out the fact that they were inexpensive to hire, and factory owners were motivated solely by greed.
The poem shows clear bias against factory owners, but nevertheless provides an example of public sentiment during the child labor movement.


This newspaper displays a positive sentiment towards the National Child Labor Committee, as well as a negative sentiment towards child labor. It praises the work of the NCLC, saying that “its work has been conducted with marked good judgement, as well as with zeal”. From this article, we were able to view one positive opinion regarding the formation of the NCLC, and contrast it with the negative reactions to have a balanced view of general public opinion during the movement.


This source is an article once again supporting the passage of a federal child labor amendment. However, what sets this article apart from others is the fact that it makes it clear the exact purpose of the amendment. Rather than making the assumption that with the passage of the amendment that child labor would become an illegal practice, it distinguishes that the child labor amendment is only permissive; meaning it is only giving Congress the power to regulate child labor, but at the moment does not take any steps to regulate the issue. Additionally, an interesting viewpoint presented in this article is the comparison between the push for child labor reform and the prohibition movement. The author makes the case that child labor is much stronger than prohibition and that it garnered more public support, a testament to the leadership of the National Child Labor Committee.


This primary source article written by Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins focuses majorly on labor. She essentially provides an overview of the entire labor movement. She speaks not only to the attempts to pass legislation by the National Child Labor Committee and such supporters, but also provides insight into the background of the issue and state legislation regarding child labor. She represents a shift in opinion within the public, reflected in the government, that federal action should be taken in order to solve the problem. Overall, this source provided us with valuable information that allowed us to not only understand the government’s position on child labor at this point in time, but to also draw parallels and recognize the patterns in history of the movement.

“Preliminary Survey of Conditions by the National Child Labor Committee Reveals a Startling State of Affairs -- Between Two and Three Million Children from 10 to 15 Years of Age Are Working for Their Daily Bread in the United States.” *New York Times* [New York]
This newspaper article shows one of the first instances of the National Child Labor Committee’s efforts to reduce public ignorance of child labor. It discusses the branch of the sociological system of America that the recently organized National Child Labor Committee was to investigate and ameliorate, and announced the existence of the NCLC to the country. From this article, we were able to witness firsthand the effectiveness of the use of statistics by the NCLC. The eye-catching headline is intended to shock the reader, which is did for many Americans.


In this newspaper article, The National Child Labor Committee declares that the decision of the United States Supreme Court declaring the National Industrial Recovery Act unconstitutional meant a return to child labor. In the fight against child exploitation, many federal acts that made their way through Congress were declared unconstitutional. This article allowed us to see the swift response of the NCLC, and their immediate action to continue the fight even when one of the key acts they had been supporting failed.


Although the focus for our research was the leadership and legacy of the National Child Labor Committee, we looked at the individual people that allowed the committee to be a success, one of the most prominent being Lewis Hine. This newspaper obituary reporting his death highlights what the newspaper felt was his most important achievement - his contributions to the fight against child labor. His public legacy is evident in this article from the day following his death, as it showed that despite being only a few years after the Fair Labor Standards Act, Hine is still credited by the general public as playing a key leading role in ending child labor in the United States.


This particular source is an article that was published in a more unconventional format. Rather than merely being an informational piece, it is an anecdotal story regarding child labor—the author even chooses to include a song. The fact that an author was even writing about an issue such as child labor that was previously an unknown to the public in an anecdotal format shows the change in public sentiment brought on by the National Child Labor Committee. It also shows the idea of trickle down leadership—the National Child Labor Committee started the trend of publishing reports, poems, and pamphlets and others, such as this author, followed the trend and continued to spread awareness of the issue.
When the Fair Labor Standards Act was passed in 1938, exploitative child labor was properly regulated for the first time. However, in the years following the act, there was still some dispute regarding the effectiveness of the law. This newspaper article provided balance for our topic, as it offered a different point of view. The article claims that children employed in agriculture were not adequately protected under the child labor provisions of the FLSA. In forming our thesis, it was necessary to see different sides of the argument, and learn how the different perspectives of the public in order to avoid a biased claim.


This source established Florence Kelley as a leader in a different way than most other historians characterize her to be. In the article, the author refers to Florence Kelley as a pioneer in child labor rights and speaking out. She states that Florence Kelley was one of the first, if not the first, to acknowledge the dangers to children working in factories and mills. Also, the fact that the author has any knowledge of working conditions can be attributed to Lewis Hine and the National Child Labor Committee.

Nonperiodicals


This primary source was incredibly useful in the sense that it provided us with information regarding the historical context behind the first uses of children as laborers in the workplace. By providing us with this essential background knowledge, this report allowed us to understand the extent of the nation’s dependency on child labor as well as the root causes of it. For example, the report details the family economy and how the wages of child laborers were essential to the survival of a family unit. Essentially, this information allowed us to gain deeper insight into the complexity of the issue of child labor.


Pamphlets published by the National Child Labor Committee such as this one entitled, “Child Workers in the Tenements” provided us with specific information regarding how the NCLC went about their campaign. The simple, comprehensive text used in this pamphlet demonstrated the extensive design skills that the leaders of the NCLC employed in their brochures. Small details can contribute to one’s opinion, and this
source showed us that the Committee was conscious of anyway in which they might influence public opinion.


This pamphlet entitled “Uniform Child Labor Law” detailed an attempt to regularize state laws in Massachusetts. From this pamphlet, we were able to gather that the laws in most states varied greatly and were extremely ineffective. Before actively seeking out federal legislation, it is evident in this pamphlet that the NCLC tried to fix the already existing state laws, but to no avail. We understood from reading this pamphlet that in an issue as extensive as child labor, wide-spread legislation would be better suited for preventing child exploitation.


The author of this poem, Carl Sandburg, shows a special sensitivity to the plight of little children who are abused by the factory system. As Lewis Hine’s photos circulated through the pamphlets and exhibits of the National Child Labor Committee, the general public sympathized more with the children who had to endure the gruesome labor conditions. The poems Carl Sandburg publishes in his collection reflect an understanding and basic awareness of the true nature of child labor.

**Audiovisual**


This photo perfectly captures the current child labor problem that exists today. Specifically in India, with labor activists such as Kailash Satyarthi working to encourage public condemnation of child slavery, gripping photos such as these have powerful impact. The very existence of this photo shows the continuation and legacy of the National Child Labor Committee’s strategic use of photographs and public awareness to bring about change.


This song, performed and written by Dorsey Dixon in 1962, criticizes what the singer describes as “babies in the mill”. He makes the argument that they should be in school, and children should learn to read and write instead of spin and spool. This obvious criticism of working children displays a clear change in general attitude towards child labor. It was no longer glorified, or seen as necessary means to support a family, but as a cruel form of slavery.
The collection contains an extensive selection of photographic prints and NCLC records that were essential in understanding and visualizing reform movements, children, working class families, education, public health, urban and rural housing conditions, industrial and agricultural sites, and other aspects of urban and rural life in America in the early twentieth century. Primarily taken by Lewis Hine, the photographs in this collection contain his original captions and dates, allowing us to use a credible and accurate selection of photos on our website.


- - -. A view of Ewen Breaker of the Pa.Coal Co. The dust was so dense at times as to obscure the view. This dust penetrates the utmost recesses of the boy’s lungs. A kind of slave driver sometimes stands over the boys, prodding or kicking them into obedience. Jan. 1911. National Child Labor Committee Collection. Lib. of Cong. LOT 7477, no. 1938 [P&P]. Library of Congress. Web. 12 May 2015.


This video clip of Franklin Roosevelt’s 1934 State of the Union Address was very helpful in further understanding the New Deal and the National Industrial Recovery Act. He announces in his speech, “Child labor is abolished!”, to the roaring applause of all those watching. Although NIRA would soon be declared unconstitutional, the applause in the video indicates a large support for federal legislation against child labor. The confidence in the way Franklin Roosevelt speaks about child labor suggests a true willingness to fight for the cause, which was different from presidents before him.


The use of child labor in the Philippines was recently highlighted in a report by the International Labor Organization, which estimates over 5 million children in the country aged 5-17, work. ABC News. ABC News Internet Ventures, 9 July 2012. Web. 13 May 2015. This photo is significant in helping us to communicate and verify the existence of child labor today. The very fact that the photo exists suggests that the idea of photographing and exposing child labor as a means to eliminate it is still in use, and the methods of the National Child Labor Committee are still in practice today.

Web sites, e-sources

This speech was the first instance where we were truly exposed to the persuasive techniques of the National Child Labor Committee. Florence Kelley used rhetorical devices and anecdotes to convey her message in the most effective way possible. From this speech we were able to determine what set the NCLC apart from other groups. They identified the main problem as being a lack of awareness, then sought to remedy the issue by exposing it to the public. The clear strategy is evident in the speech, as Kelley uses every method possible to open the eyes of her listeners. Her leadership as a member of the committee shines in her strong vocal portrayal of the ideals of the NCLC.


This collection contained a variety of first-hand accounts and other primary sources regarding the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire. We were specifically able to use eyewitness William Shepherd’s report to assess how extreme the reactions of the general public were to the fire. His personal reaction also allowed us to understand how truly horrifying the event would have been to witness. Also in this collection were various lectures and speeches by prominent child labor activists following the fire, including Secretary of Labor Francis Perkins. Her lecture was helpful in determining the significance of the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire in shifting the opinion on child labor and supporting the Fair Labor Standards Act.


This collection of photographs taken by Lewis Hine documented the children working in harsh conditions, and greatly furthered the mission of the NCLC. His work was necessary in the organized exhibitions created by the NCLC with photographs and statistics to dramatize the plight of these children. By providing us with detailed captions and information regarding each photo, we were able to use this source to supply visuals for our website as well as provide support for our claim regarding the true nature of the work of child laborers.


The interviews of the survivors of the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire were very helpful in determining public reaction to the fire. Rather than allow those responsible to get away with the crime, the public was outraged and refused to tolerate their blatant disregard for the welfare of young children. Reading the interviews of the survivors allowed us to understand the events of the fire from a firsthand account, as well as comprehend the extent to which the public was appalled and infuriated.
Legal sources


The Fair Labor Standards Act establishes minimum wage, overtime pay, record keeping, and youth employment standards affecting employees in the private sector and in Federal, State, and local governments. It specifically details the minimum ages, time restrictions, and wages for both adult and non-adult workers. This law was essential to eliminating child exploitation in the United States, and is considered one of the NCLC’s greatest accomplishments.


In this court case, the Supreme Court held that Congress had overstepped its constitutional power in attempting to regulate the production of goods through the Keating-Owen Act. It deemed the Keating-Owen Act unconstitutional, a major blow for child labor advocates.


The Keating-Owen Act limited the working hours of children and forbade the interstate sale of goods produced by child labor on a federal level. It was ultimately declared unconstitutional, but was one of the first attempts at federal legislation regulating child labor.


The National Industrial Recovery Act (NIRA) was a law passed by the United States Congress in 1933 to authorize the President to regulate industry in an attempt to raise prices after severe deflation and stimulate economic recovery. Its promotion of codes of fair trade practices would potentially help create progressive standards for wages, hours, and working conditions, and eliminate sweatshops and child labor. However, it was declared unconstitutional in 1935. This was another instance of federal legislation that was supported by the NCLC.


The Child Labor Amendment is a proposed and still-pending amendment to the United States Constitution that would specifically authorize Congress to regulate “labor of persons under eighteen years of age”. The amendment was proposed in 1924, after the Keating-Owen Act was deemed unconstitutional. This was another attempt at federal regulation of child labor backed by the National Child Labor Committee.
Unpublished & other sources

Knights of Labor. “The Preamble and Declaration of Principles of the Knights of Labor of America.” 1885. MS.

One of the main aspects of our thesis that this source supported is the idea that labor unions in existence prior to the formation of the NCLC did little, despite their claims to fight against child labor. In this case, the Preamble and Declaration of Principles of the Knights of Labor of America explicitly states that the union condemns child labor. However, the fact that the document detailed no concrete actions that the organization planned to take in order to combat child labor revealed the extent to which child labor was ignored. Further research on this topic supported the inferences we made regarding the need for the formation of the NCLC.


This source is the transcript of a testimony given by Camella Teoli, a fourteen year old textile mill worker, to a Joint Session of Congress. She was testifying about the unsafe working conditions in the mills, which were described in graphic detail in the testimony about losing her hair when it got caught in a textile machine she was operating gained national headlines in 1912. We were able to connect the widespread attention that this particular case achieved and the effects of the publicity to the National Child Labor Committee’s public awareness campaign. The fact that Congress was willing to listen to the testimony of a young girl proves the extensive influence of the committee as a leader. Furthermore, statements made by Camella Teoli also reinforced the idea that state laws were easily thwarted, as she speaks about obtaining forged documents by saying that she was older than she really was in order to work.

Secondary Sources

Periodicals


This article published in the Oxford Art Journal contains an in depth analysis of Lewis Hine’s photographs used by the National Child Labor Committee. It was evident from this article that Hine was a skilled photographer, not simply taking photos, but thinking about angles, lighting, shadows, and the children themselves. We were able to see an element of strategy in Lewis Hine’s photos, as the children were generally made to look as innocent as possible to garner sympathy. It is debated whether this was cheating those viewing the photos, or whether it was simply another aspect of the art of photography.
Nonperiodicals


In this source, the author highlights the roles that children and young adults played in American labor strikes during the 19th and early 20th centuries. Chapters are devoted to the Lowell textile-factory girls as well as New York City’s “newsies”. The strikers included are not only those who protested unfair work conditions, but also individuals such as Pauline Newman who organized residents in an effort to reform labor laws so that youngsters would no longer work under inhumane and unsafe conditions. The author draws from a broad expanse of resources including personal interviews, newspaper and magazine articles, primary and secondary book accounts. This accumulation of knowledge allowed us to make connections about the outcome of strikes that occurred before the formation of the NCLC and strikes that occurred after, ultimately providing us with the information needed to analyze the impact of the NCLC on the child labor movement.


This source was an extremely insightful look into the life and work of Jane Addams. The author begins with Addams’ roots and goes in chronological order from her work in the Hull House to her work with the National Child Labor Committee to her work with the NAACP and peace organizations. The leadership of Jane Addams is very clear, as the author includes the various influential events and occurrences that Jane Addams was a part of—including her role as a leader of the National Child Labor Committee. She primarily worked as the writer of various educational pamphlets and did much of the behind the scenes work for the committee. The author is able to capture her true essence as a leader who guided silently and calmly without extravagant feats and dramatics, but who was still able to accomplish her goals.


This source was particularly helpful to us in the sense that it allowed us to gain a deeper understanding of Lewis Hine’s leadership and work for the National Child Labor Committee. The author provides a documentary account of child labor in America during the early 1900s and the role Lewis Hine played in the crusade against it. He offers a look at the man behind the camera, his involvement with the National Child Labor Committee, and the dangers he faced trying to document unjust labor conditions. He uses Hine’s pictures to accompany the explanations of the economics and industries of the time. Both Freedman’s words and quotes from Hine add impact to the photos. Details such as Hine’s way of determining children’s height by measuring them against his own coat buttons add further depth and a personal touch to the already eloquent statements made by his thoughtfully composed black-and-white portraits. By reading this source, we not only
came to appreciate the impact of Hine’s groundbreaking work, but also learned how one man developed his skill and talents to bring about social reform.


This source discusses Hine and how his photography influenced and was influenced by the culture of the day and the art scene. The book contains many of Hine’s photographs that provided us with a deeper connection and understanding. The author explains how his work progressed from his social concerns about immigrants and child laborers to documenting the greatness of American labor and the emerging machine age later in his life. She continues on to discuss his significance as a social reformer who used a completely novel idea at the time to accomplish his goals and enact important changes. However, at the same time, this source also provided us with balance since it detailed not only the positives of Hine’s works, but also some of his and the National Child Labor Committee’s shortcomings.


Although this source was mainly focused as an account of the larger context of the labor movement, it was useful to us in the sense that it allowed for us to understand the place of the National Child Labor Committee as a leading organization within the American labor movement. The author discusses how the labor movement espoused social equality and honest labor through the formation of labor unions. He provides a very thorough look at the movement that had a profound effect on how industry operated in the United States. Furthermore, he also includes the historical context necessary in order to understand the importance of the NCLC and the reason behind its formation.


This source provided twenty-seven excerpts of primary source written works, speeches, and testimony from the Industrial Revolution, exploring thoughts and ideas from key figures during this innovative time including Jane Addams, Florence Kelley, Lewis Hine, and Peter Roberts. One of the most interesting pieces was in fact written by Peter Roberts regarding the working conditions of young boys in the mines working as breaker boys. This powerful piece helped us to obtain a greater understanding on the struggles that working children faced. Another source that was extremely influential in our research was a firsthand account of the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire from a journalist. His account provided us with valuable insight into the significance of the event as well as the connection of the aftermath of the event to the National Child Labor Committee’s efforts.


In this source, Kate Sampsell-Willmann assesses Hine’s output through the lens of his photographs, his political and philosophical ideologies, and his social and aesthetic
commitments to the dignity of labor and workers. Using Hine’s images, published articles, and private correspondence, the author places Hine within the context of the Progressive Era and its associated movements and periodicals, such as the National Child Labor Committee. This intellectual history, heavily illustrated with Hine’s photography, compares his career and concerns with other prominent photographers of the day. This source was useful due to its detailed analysis of how Hine’s images and texts intersected with concepts of urban history and social democracy. It reestablishes the Hine’s intellectual preeminence in the development of American photography as socially conscious art and a tool for social reform.


This source recalls the 1911 tragedy, a fire at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory in New York City, that killed 146 people and explains how this disaster led to reforms that protected the health and safety of American workers. It is a fairly traditional chronological approach with explanations of preceding events. The author highlights a vital moment in U.S. history, placing events against a backdrop of the people, places, and times that made them possible. The author is able to convey the shocking conditions both at work and at home for the children employed in the factory without sensationalizing. By doing so, the author traces the momentum of the emerging labor movement. The information provided in this source allowed us to make broader connections to the National Child Labor Committee’s actions regarding not only this particular event, but also their influence in the labor movement as a whole.


This source was a very insightful biography telling the story of Florence Kelley, a leading reformer in the Progressive Era. The book serves as a political history of the United States during a period of transforming change when women worked to end the abuses of unregulated industrial capitalism. Kelley’s story shows how changes in women’s public culture combined with changes in men’s public culture to produce results that neither could have achieved alone. In this book, the author explores Florence Kelley’s leadership in an era when women’s organizations lent unprecedented power to their activism. Detailing her actions in various reform movements not only limited to child labor but including her work at the Hull House with Jane Addams, at the NAACP, and for Women’s Suffrage, the author is able to clearly communicate the traits of Florence Kelley that make her a true leader that was able to bring about so much change during her time.


Rather than just providing modern labor statistics, this report provides an overview of the history of child labor in the United States as well as specific statistics from the late
nineteenth and early twentieth century. This source supports the idea that child labor was a direct, unintended consequence of the industrial revolution. Furthermore, the hard statistics that it provides give definitive proof of the change in child labor statistics in the decades following the beginning of industrialization in the United States. Finally, we were also able to gain a broad understanding of child labor regulation in place today from this report. Using this information, we were able to focus our further research.


This source helped us to relate to the significant social and cultural changes that occurred in the years 1878-1913. Throughout the source are numerous illustrations and interesting sidebars that provide an understanding of the political climate, people, and events that shaped the time. In addition to providing further reading suggestions and research and activity ideas, a chronology framing events in the wider context pointed our research in different directions and allowed for us to branch out into many different subtopics and gain a larger understanding of our topic.


This book examines the daily lives of sweatshop workers and issues surrounding their work. It was extremely useful in helping us to understand the efforts made to reform substandard conditions, whether successful or unsuccessful. This source also combined authoritative analysis with photographs and primary-source quotations to detail what life was like for a factory worker during his respective era. Frequent boxed excerpts from newspaper articles and quotes added authenticity and were important in providing some historical context for all of the events detailed. For example, one aspect that this source discussed in detail was the connection between socioeconomic status and race when looking at child labor, using evidence from the cases of many immigrants. We were able to use this information and data as further historical context for our topic.

Web sites, e-sources


This webpage contained a timeline of key child labor events in the United States. In the early decades of the twentieth century, the numbers of child laborers in the U.S. peaked. Child labor began to decline as the labor and reform movements grew and labor standards in general began improving, increasing the political power of working people and other social reformers to demand legislation regulating child labor. This timeline depicted the chronology of the events, and the reform actions of the National Child Labor Committee in contributing to the decline of child labor.
This article described the childhood of child labor advocate Florence Kelley, highlighting her motivations for joining the National Child Labor Committee. We were able to see how witnessing the cruelties of child labor firsthand can change one’s vision on life. After witnessing an atrocity caused by inhumane working conditions, Florence Kelley devoted her life to protecting working women and children. This article allowed us to understand the true power in seeing horrors with your own eyes, rather than just reading or hearing about them.


This source provided detailed information regarding the Fair Labor Standards Act. The text discussed the long process Frances Perkins and Franklin Roosevelt needed to go through in order to pass the law, and not have it deemed unconstitutional like the many that came before it. Frances Perkins’ leadership as the first female member of cabinet is shown through her resolve and determination to pass the FLSA without failure. This source also allowed us to see the clear connection between Frances Perkins and the National Child Labor Committee.


When the NCLC was formed in a conference at Carnegie Hall, many of the leaders involved with the NCLC spoke in front of the audience, calling for active efforts to be taken to end child labor. This website provided quotations from Jane Addams and Edgar Murphy’s respective speeches, allowing us to use primary evidence from the event. The information was especially helpful on our “Formation of the NCLC” page, as we were able to use the specific details the article contained describing the event to enhance our project and further our evidence.

This website biography described National Child Labor Committee leader Jane Addams in the context of the many social reform movements she was involved in, and highlighted her specific role in the NCLC. While researching the individual leaders of the Committee, we found that each had distinctive roles. This article credited Jane Addams as a skilled and persuasive writer who used her talents to create the many pamphlets and brochures distributed by the National Child Labor Committee.
This biography of photographer Lewis Wilkes Hine provided a basic overview of his life and motivations for joining the National Child Labor Committee. Hine’s concern with child labor stemmed from his own early experiences as a young boy in Wisconsin working 13 hours a day, six days a week, for a paltry $4 in weekly wages. It detailed the harsh conditions of Hine’s youth, demonstrating to us that Hine was not motivated by money or fame, but by an interest in the welfare of the young child laborers.


This website article provided information relating the National Child Labor Committee to the Progressive Era, allowing us to view the social reform movement against child labor in historical context. It also highlighted specific leaders within the Committee whose characteristics were essential in fulfilling the mission of the NCLC. We used this source to identify the most prominent members of the Committee, and how they contributed to the leadership of the NCLC as a whole.

Unpublished & other sources

Newman, Jeffrey. Telephone interview. 23 Jan. 2015.

We were able to interview Jeffrey Newman, the president and executive secretary of the National Child Labor Committee. From him, we were able to gain valuable insight regarding the NCLC and its individual leaders. We discussed the legacy of the Committee in its first hundred years, as well as its legacy today. He informed us about the dual motivation of the committee - to pass legislation preventing child exploitation, and to ensure compulsory education laws were passed. He praised photographer Lewis Hine highly, and attributed the success of the committee to him and his photographs. Mr. Newman also highlighted exactly what set the National Child Labor Committee apart from other organizations, and commented on their single focus and willingness to go to any end to achieve their goal. The importance of the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire was brought to light - Mr. Newman described it as a critical turning point in the movement against child labor. All in all, our phone interview with Jeffrey Newman is one of our most valuable and insightful resources.