

## Industrialization Written Assessment Example

The industrialization of Europe upended the rural lifestyle which dominated the continent, if not the entire world. The movement from pastoral subsistence to mechanized production created many problems throughout society, specifically the rapid destruction of the environment to feed the machines and the increased subjugation of women.

Humans have relied on the earth to provide resources to aid in survival, however as machines required massive amounts of coal, buried deep in the ground, to increase the speed at which goods are produced, the environment took a massive beating. Forests were cleared for lumber, creating massive bare spots where thousand year old trees once stood, considered to be a unending resource. This mentality can be seen in Dr. Seuss' *The Lorax* when the Once-ler and Lorax stand and witness "outside in the fields came the sickening smack of an axe on a tree and then we saw the tree fall, the very last Truffula tree of them all." (The Lorax) Mining for coal pock-marked the earth with large open mines where workers toiled in underground tunnels exposed to poison gasses and extreme temperatures. By 1830 Britain was mining 23,000,000 tons of coal (Info) in order to run industrial factories and heat homes. Further complicating the environmental issues was the soot being released into the air making London's air worse than the air of modern day China.

Women's roles were also greatly impacted by rapid industrialization. During the period of cottage industries, most families worked together sharing responsibilities to ensure the welfare of family, but as more workers were needed in the factories and less on the farms, women left the home to take dangerous jobs, mainly working with textiles (Info) . Family units became disjointed and with many women working the same hours of men, children were left to fend for themselves on the streets. Placard J shows women working together with men and children sorting coal in a factory (GW, J). The argument could be made that industrialization brought women out of the home and into everyday society, but women were not valued as equal employees as their male counterparts. They were paid only a fraction of what a man was paid, usually one-half to one-third (Info). Women and children would have been better served remaining in the house under such conditions.

Total: 384 words, 5 pieces of evidence, 3 from (Info), 1 from (Lorax), 1 from (GW)