

Biography Writing



Level 5

The Bull Moose

Theodore Roosevelt was an incredible President. Heroically, he stood up for what he thought was right. Because of Roosevelt's accomplishments, he earned the titles: Square Dealer, Trust buster, and Nature Saver. Since his face is among the four on Mt. Rushmore, most people must agree with me.

The Square Dealer tried to treat people fairly. While most people were prejudiced against Jews, Teddy was the first President to appoint a Jew to his cabinet. His son was best friends with a servant's son who was African-American. Roosevelt even invited Booker T. Washington, who founded Tuskegee University, to dinner at the White House. Against entrenched business interests, Roosevelt strongly stood up for the average worker. Surprisingly, there was a law passed by him that protected workers. If a worker was injured or killed because of poor working conditions and could not work, his employer still had to pay him his regular salary.

“We demand that big business give the people a square deal. When anyone...in big business...endeavors to do right he shall himself be given a square deal,” remarked the President.”¹

Back then, business trusts were a problem. If it was a monopoly it could charge any price it wanted because it eliminated competition. Conditions were terrible for workers who often had a 16 hour day. Those bosses were the kind that Roosevelt called the “criminal rich”. There were already laws against trusts, but they were not being enforced. In the Pennsylvania coal strike of 1902, Teddy forced the “big bosses” to allow a board to negotiate a settlement with the workers. When they refused, he threatened the “robber barons”, like JP Morgan, with the U.S. Army. They conceded.²

The Teddy Bear President admired nature. Once, Teddy Roosevelt went with his family to Yel-

Using nicknames for the thesis is very creative. It shows good research as well as clarifies what aspects of the person's life the writer has chosen to discuss.

Using quotes and footnotes proves that good research has been done as well as gives more depth to the story being told.

¹ *A History of US: An Age of Extremes*, Hakim, p. 142, Oxford University Press, New York, 1994.

² *Theodore Roosevelt: An American Original*, Bengtson, pp. 171-2, Emerald Books, Washington, 2005.



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It can be difficult to narrow down the topics, especially for historical biographies. This writer has done a good job at pulling out three important things Theodore Roosevelt was known for without getting sidetracked by other information.

lowstone National Park. Because of railroads, hotels, and hunting changing the park, the President became upset. Although the government had made Yellowstone a national park, it had not made additional laws that would truly preserve the natural beauty. Teddy carefully defined what you could and could not do to a park, while enlarging the national forest by forty million acres. He created 16 national monuments, 5 national parks, 51 bird sanctuaries, and 4 game refuges.³ Theodore saved many of America's beautiful plants and animals from extinction.

Theodore Roosevelt protected the average man, destroyed the trusts, and preserved our nature forever. No wonder *Time* magazine called Roosevelt "the Locomotive President, the man who drew his flourishing nation into the future."⁴

³ *ibid*-1, p. 151

⁴ "The 20th Century Express", from Jul 3, 2006, *Time* magazine.