

## Surviving the Depression in Champaign-Urbana: An Essay

Over the next few weeks, we will take an in-depth look at the effects of the Great Depression in Champaign-Urbana, as well as the ways in which local leaders and citizens responded to the crisis. We will investigate the impact of the 1929 stock market crash and subsequent bank failures in the community, and we will also examine the effectiveness of local solutions to the Depression. Each of the topics and sources we analyze will help you to answer the following questions, which you will respond to in a 2-3 page essay:

- 1) **How did the Great Depression impact the lives of people who lived in Champaign-Urbana?**
- 2) **Did the leaders and citizens of Champaign-Urbana respond effectively to the problems that the community faced during the Depression? Why or why not?**

During this unit, we will analyze nine sources related to the Depression in Champaign-Urbana. You will document these sources on your essay source chart, which you will then use to provide evidence and support in your essay.

Your essay must include the following:

- An introduction with a **thesis statement**. Your thesis statement should address the questions above by explaining how the Depression impacted local citizens and whether local leaders responded effectively to the Depression.
- At least **two (2)** examples of how the Depression impacted local citizens, and at least **two (2)** reasons why local leaders either did or did not respond effectively to the problems that the community faced during the Depression. These examples should be discussed in 2-4 paragraphs in the body of your essay.
- Appropriate details from the documents and sources that we have discussed in class. These sources **must** be cited in your essay.
- A **conclusion** that restates your thesis and closes your essay with a final statement about the Great Depression in Champaign-Urbana.