Sample In-Class Writing Exercises

The Gilded Age Economy
Write a short paragraph (three or four sentences) explaining, in your own words, the most important changes in the American economy during the time between the Civil War and the beginning of the twentieth century.

Debates over the Equal Rights Amendment in the 1920s
Write a short paragraph comparing and contrasting the attitudes of Elsie Hill and Florence Kelley to the Equal Rights Amendment. Explain, in your own words, why Hill supported the amendment and Kelley opposed it.

Women’s Work in World War II
The primary source documents by Lettow, Derusha, and Morales describe their experiences during World War II in the United States. In what ways did pre-existing ideas about gender roles shape the experiences of these women in their wartime work and lives?

American Society in the Post-War Era
The authors of the document NSC-68, which we read last week, argued that a key attribute of an open society was that it encouraged diversity of opinion. Based on the argument made in his article, did Henry Steele Commager believe that America was an open society? Why, or why not?