

Reading Questions for *Down and Out-II*

How are these letters different than what might have come earlier?

What does the government owe them?

Should Americans receive relief?

Who favors relief and who opposes it?

What other kinds of aid did Americans want?

Do specific traits of letter writers influence their views?

Which are the most important traits in determining attitudes?

Do opinions change from industrial to rural areas?

What do these regions have in common and what separates them?

What obstacles do the New Deal programs encounter?

Who do people blame for the inadequacies of the New Deal?

What do they think about FDR and Eleanor?

What do they reveal about how Americans think about their government?

How do those attitudes change from the early 1930s to later?

Assignment: In addition to your weekly reading response, go to the web-link for "[By the People, For the People: Posters of the WPA](#)." Look through some of these posters at how New Deal imagery depicted working-class Americans.

MIT OpenCourseWare
<http://ocw.mit.edu>

21H.209 America in Depression and War
Spring 2012

For information about citing these materials or our Terms of Use, visit: <http://ocw.mit.edu/terms>.