#### STANFORD HISTORY EDUCATION GROUP

# READING LIKE A HISTORIAN



## Populism and the Election of 1898 (8.12.8)

# Background:

In the 1870s and 1880s, life for farmers became increasingly difficult. Farmers in the West and South decided to organize politically. Their party was called the Populist Party.

### Prompt:

Why did the Populist Party attract millions of supporters?

#### Task:

In a well thought out response:

- State a claim in response to the prompt, using the prompt as a sentence stem.
- Support your claim using at least three pieces of evidence from the documents.
  - o Be sure to explain why the evidence you selected supports your claim.
- Research an additional piece of evidence and incorporate it into your argument.
- Incorporate an additional piece of evidence that argues against your claim.
  - Use this additional piece of evidence as the basis for a counterclaim