

**Reading Guide for:**  
**“The Ambiguous Legacies of Women’s Progressivism”**  
**by Robyn Muncy**

CQ#4: How successful were the Progressives? What did they achieve? What were the major obstacles to Progressivism?

**Instructions:** Consider the following prompts to help you focus your reading.

- (1) In what three major ways did “female progressive activism [leave] a complicated legacy to twentieth century women?”
- (2) How did women try to effect change? What were their tools, strategies, etc.?
- (3) What issues/areas of interest did women progressives target for reform?
- (4) How was the struggle for protective labor legislation especially “ambiguous” for women? In what ways was *Muller vs. Oregon* but a step forward and step back with regard to progressive reform?
- (5) What were the different ways that female progressives attempted to aid poor urban, and often immigrant, women manage family and work? What is the difference between settlement houses and neighborhood unions? What is the difference between emphasis on mother’s pensions and day care?
- (6) How was race an obstacle progressive reform?