

Reform-minded writers exposed many of the social ills that Progressives targeted. Popular magazines printed journalists' firsthand accounts of injustices and horrors they had witnessed. These journalists were known as muckrakers because they "raked up" or exposed the filth of society.

Most of the muckrakers' articles focused on business and political corruption.

Other muckrakers wrote about insurance and stock manipulation, the exploitation of child labor, slum conditions, and racial discrimination