Magen Pharm. LEQ #2: Between 1750 and 1850 more and more Western Europeans were employed in cottage industry and factory production. Analyze how these two types of employment affected employer-employee relations, working conditions, and the standard of living during this period.

Contextualization: The agricultural revolution increased food supplies with its widespread effects. There were movements away from subsistence agriculture towards commercial agriculture due to improvements made to farming. Because of this, less people were needed to grow crops and raise livestock to sufficiently feed people. Thesis: During the first industrial revolution in Western Europe, especially in England, life was changing dramatically as less and less people were involved with agriculture and started moving towards urban areas to live. Argument: With all the change that happened, employer-employee relations, working conditions, and the standard of living were all affected between 1750 and 1850 in Western Europe.

Body #1: Employer-employee relations developed and changed between from 1750-1850.
- Evidence: The cottage industry employers visited homes every time something needed to be picked up; they were not constantly observing. Analysis: This industry allowed families to make some extra money by doing jobs like spinning thread in the comfort of their own homes. The relations were quite comfortable since the employers were not too involved with monitoring the workers.
- Evidence: By the late industrial revolution after greater mechanization was developed, employer-employee relationships heavily favored the employer. Analysis: As time went on, more people moved to the cities, desperate for work. Because there was a surplus of workers, companies had the power to simply fire any worker that would not meet their standards. There were plenty of unskilled workers available that could have been easily replaced.

Body #2: Working conditions changed as well, and like employer-employee relations, it changed for the worse.
- Evidence: In the cottage industry, people were able to make their own schedules as they pleased. Analysis: This was due to the fact that work for the cottage industry would not be the primary source of income for people, as they raised most of their own food anyways and would not necessarily need to always purchase it. Being involved in the industry was merely just another way to make additional money. Working conditions would be great because someone could spin thread in their bedroom.
- Evidence: Factories in the industrial revolution were cramped, crowded, and dirty. Analysis: As many workstations as possible would be put in a factory to maximize the amount of product and therefore revenue being produced. The people in charge of maintaining working conditions did not care about the workers, as they were dispensable. People could not work in the comfort of their own homes and instead were at the mercy of the factories.

Body #3: The standard of living for most people in Western Europe during this time also saw changes, especially in regards to sanitation and health.
- Evidence: The cottage industry’s sanitation and health of the workers was dependent on how well people did or were able to maintain clean living and working environments. Analysis: However, because people would be working in their homes, the sanitation levels would be better since people would care about their homes. Also, people in the cottage industry would be living in more rural areas, meaning they would be farther away from the pollution from factories located in urban areas.
- Evidence: Factory production attracted people to cities in large numbers. Analysis: The people owning the factories would have intentions of maximizing profit and not always making sure conditions would be ideal. Analysis: Areas that are more densely populated tend to have more potential for higher amounts of pollution, dirt, and disease. People living in urban areas typically were less healthy due to working in a factory or coal mine all day where many sat in one spot for hours on end did dangerous mine work and got black lung disease. The type of work the factor industry required combined with the goal of making the highest profit possible and a dispensable amount of workers all amounted to awful living and working conditions in the cities.

Conclusion: Though the factory industry worsened employer-employee relations, working conditions, and the standard of living, it did provide jobs to people that no longer needed to farm after the agricultural revolution. However, in general, the cottage industry provided people with much better conditions in their lives. Synthesis: Artisans were also affected negatively by the industrial revolution. For example, before, a cobbler would make custom fit shoes for people. With mechanization and confection, people could buy shoes made from a factory for less money. Craftsman were being replaced with machinery who could do their jobs, making high quality products, except in larger quantities in less time and also requiring less skilled workers that would have cost less money to employ compared to a skilled worker.