Billy Joel’s song, “Allentown,” makes a statement about the declining opportunity of the American economic system and how people are coping with the switch from industrial to post-industrial America.

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| Within the song, Joel states at one point,  “they're [the owners of factories] closing all the factories down/Out in Bethlehem they're [the workers from the factories] killing time  /Filling out forms / Standing in line.” |
| As the workers in this portion of the song are being let go by the factory owners, obviously they are experiencing an understanding or realization that the opportunity to hold a job in a factory for their life is now being denied or limited. In addition, this part of the song shows that the workers are attempting to either receive jobless benefits or are potentially applying for other positions, which demonstrates how they may be coping with the declining situation. |
| Introduction to quote and quote:  “the Pennsylvania we never found / For the promises our teachers gave/  If we worked hard / If we behaved / So the graduations hang on the wall  But they never really helped us at all” |
| Analysis of quote to prove points in thesis: |

The possibility to do something, a kind of chance, a potential.

A chance that you are given to achieve something.

Well we're living here in Allentown

And they're closing all the factories down

Out in Bethlehem they're killing time

Filling out forms

Standing in line

Well our fathers fought the Second World War

Spent their weekends on the Jersey Shore

Met our mothers in the USO

Asked them to dance

Danced with them slow

And we're living here in Allentown

But the restlessness was handed down

And it's getting very hard to stay

Well we're waiting here in Allentown

For the Pennsylvania we never found

For the promises our teachers gave

If we worked hard

If we behaved

So the graduations hang on the wall

But they never really helped us at all

No they never taught us what was real

Iron and coke

And chromium steel

And we're waiting here in Allentown

But they've taken all the coal from the ground

And the union people crawled away

Every child had a pretty good shot

To get at least as far as their old man got

But something happened on the way to that place

They an American flag in our face

Well I'm living here in Allentown

And it's hard to keep a good man down

But I won't be getting up today

And we're living here in Allentown  
  
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