

Women's Suffrage: Whose problem is it?

Articles: "Men and Women on the Same Plane" San Francisco Call no. 75
13.02.1900 Volume no. 87

"Answers to Correspondents" San Francisco Call no. 87 25.02.1900 Volume no. 87

California Content Standard:

8.6.6 Examine the women's suffrage movement (e.g., biographies, writings, and speeches of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Margaret Fuller, Lucretia Mott, Susan B. Anthony).

and

11.5.4 Analyze the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment and the changing role of women in society.

Objective: Students will analyze two articles from the San Francisco Call newspaper to understand conflicting views about women's suffrage in the early 1900's.

Anticipatory Set: (3-5 minutes) Journal activity. Students write individually on the following question: In the U.S. government, who is in charge of voting rights, the national government or the states?

Students share out. This is also a time to review separation of powers between the national government and the states in the constitution.

Hand out copies of articles and handouts. Handouts should be copied on two different colors of paper or somehow have two different groups that can be easily separated. (Note: students will ask what the difference is, I would explain I ran out of one color of paper and had to finish with another.)

Guided Practice: Students may either read articles separately or together. Less proficient readers will likely need more guidance. Questions may be answered individually or in pairs.

Discussion: Review answers with students. The questions are designed to focus the attention of the students on key ideas and persuasive tactics, not make them experts on women's suffrage. Class discussion is crucial to developing the students understanding.

Closure: Collect papers and separate by color and response to the last answer. Count only one color's vote and write the response on the board or overhead. Use this to begin a discussion about what it feels like to not have a voice. Considering what is at stake in this debate (the voice of half of the U.S.

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population): Should the national government get involved? What if it goes against state's rights?

Name

Date

Period

Reading comprehension:

In article 1, what is asked of congress by the National American's Woman Suffrage Association?

Explain one reason the author of Article #1 gives in support of women's suffrage.

In Article #1, what does "the principle that governments derive their just power from the consent of the governed" reference?

Who is the "Miss Anthony" referred to article one?

Does Article 2 tell the exact number of female voters in the state? If so, what is it?

What is the writer of Article #2's opinion about a constitutional amendment for women's suffrage? What is their reason for this opinion?

What arguments from Article #1 are addressed in Article #2?

Which argument do you think was the most effective and constitutional way to give women the right to vote?

Explain your answer

Name

Date

Period

Reading comprehension: Possible answers

In Article #1, what is asked of congress by the National American's Woman Suffrage Association? **A constitutional amendment giving all U.S. women the right to vote**

Explain what one reason the author of Article #1 gives in support of women's suffrage. **Possible answers: Women as ruled by the government. Women in Louisiana, France, and Ireland can vote. Women's votes help make better laws for society.**

In Article #1, what does "the principle that governments derive their just power from the consent of the governed" reference? **The Declaration of Independence (This is an excellent time to review the principles of government laid out in the Declaration, standard 8.1.2, as well as using document from U.S. history to support an opinion)**

Who is the "Miss Anthony" referred to article one? **Susan B. Anthony (note: Susan B Anthony was a strong supporter of a constitutional amendment as early as the Civil War. She fought to have women included in the 15th amendment. When she stepped down as president of NAWSA, the focus switched to a state by state campaign)**

Does Article #2 tell the exact number of female voters in the state? If so, what is it? **No, it only gives estimate because of the lack of census data.**

What is the writer of Article #2's opinion about a constitutional amendment for women's suffrage? What is their reason for this opinion? **The author feels that women's suffrage is the responsibility of the states, because states control voting rights.**

What arguments from Article #1 are addressed in Article #2? **The argument that a constitutional amendment is necessary is addressed by emphasizing the states' rights in determining voting rights, and figures and statistics are questioned because of a lack of census data.**

Which argument do you think was the most effective and constitutional way to give women the right to vote?

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Explain your answer

Answers will vary