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ASSIGNMENT - Comparing State and National Debates on Women's Suffrage and Creating Your Own Speech/Debate on Women's Suffrage

Patricia Rutenberg
University of Tennessee, Knoxville

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ASSIGNMENT

Comparing State and National Debates on Women's Suffrage and Creating Your Own Speech/Debate on Women's Suffrage

Teacher Scholar Fellow: Patricia Brake Rutenberg, PhD

Course: The City as History: Introduction to Public History

Possible Course Adaptations: History, Political Science

OBJECTIVES

1. To examine writings and visual representations concerning women's suffrage on a national level and state level.
2. To place the writings and visuals concerning women's suffrage in context with larger historical events.
3. To understand the dynamics between federal and state objectives and outcomes concerning women's voting rights.
4. To create a pro-suffrage or anti-suffrage poster.
5. To write and deliver a pro-suffrage or anti-suffrage speech/debate.

Assignment

Please complete the following:

1. Examine the historical background to the quest for American women's suffrage. Outline major events in American women's history, such as the antebellum reform movement, Seneca Falls, post-Civil War women's club movement and collegiate movement, the role of women in World War I. ([Women's Suffrage Timeline](#). American Bar Association. Accessed April 14, 2024.)
2. Note the national pro-suffrage arguments and claims. Give 5 examples from the website, including writings and visual commentary.
 - ([Women's Suffrage](#). Library of Congress. Accessed April 14, 2024.)
 - ([Women's Rights Timeline](#). National Archives. Accessed April 14, 2024.)
3. Note the national anti-suffrage arguments and claims. Give 5 examples from the website, including writings and visual commentary. ([Women's Suffrage](#). Library of Congress. Accessed April 14, 2024.)
4. Now examine the roles of women and men in the pro-suffrage and anti-suffrage movements in your home state. Give 5 examples of pro-suffrage and 5 anti-suffrage arguments for your state. For example, you can use the following website for the state of Tennessee. ([Women's Suffrage in Tennessee](#). TeVA. Accessed April 14, 2024.)
5. Comparing your state trends with the national trends, please answer the following questions in half-page paragraphs each:
 - a. To what extent does your state reflect the larger national trends for pro-suffrage and anti-suffrage? Give specific examples to support your claims.
 - b. To what extent do education, race, class, employment and prior community involvement influence the pro-suffrage and anti-suffrage movements? Give specific examples to support your claims.
 - c. After the ratification of the 19th Amendment, what were the voting trends among the newly enfranchised women voters, nationally and in your state? Give specific examples to support your claims.
 - d. How does the American quest for women's suffrage compare to other countries? Give specific examples to support your claims.
6. Using your information, create a pro-suffrage and anti-suffrage poster. These can be simple and can incorporate pro-suffrage and anti-suffrage images from the above websites.
7. Using your information and posters, prepare to present 5-minute speeches/debates either for or against women's suffrage.
8. Using your posters and any other visuals that you like (such as a red rose or yellow rose, "Votes for Women" sashes, etc.), present your speech and poster in class and be prepared to engage in debate with classmates.