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IN-CLASS ACTIVITY - “Gender and Voting”– Intersection of Voter Participation and Priorities for Different Gender Groups

Bernadette Ludwig
Wagner College

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IN-CLASS ACTIVITY

“Gender and Voting”— Intersection of Voter Participation and Priorities for Different Gender Groups

Teacher Scholar Fellow: Bernadette Ludwig, PhD | **Course:** Sociology of Gender
Possible course adaptations: gender studies, women’s studies, ethics,
government, politics

LEARNING OBJECTIVES FOR THIS ASSIGNMENT

- To understand how gender identities can intersect with political beliefs and behaviors.
- To reflect on how societal norms, and cultural expectations can shape voting behavior.
- To learn how to apply an intersectional lens to understand differences and similarities among different groups as they pertain to voting priorities and participation.
- To understand and reflect how their own identities (do not) mirror those in the same demographic groups (gender, age, race, geography, etc.).

Preparation for In-Class Activity

Gather relevant data on gender and voting behavior to be distributed to students (as handouts)

Possible sources:

- Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP). 2024. "[Gender Differences in Voter Turnout.](#)"
- Pew Research Center. 2023. "[Voting Patterns in the 2022 Elections.](#)"
- Booth, Ruby Belle and Alberto Medina. 2023. "[Youth Turnout by Race and Gender Reveals Major Inequities.](#)" Circle.
- Junn, Jane, John Holbein, and Nazita Lajevardi. 2022. "[How Gender, Race, Age, and Voter ID Laws Affect Whether a Voter Actually Casts a Ballot.](#)" USCDornsife.
- Solomon, Danyelle and Connor Maxwell. 2019. "[Women of Color: A Collective Powerhouse in the U.S. Electorate.](#)" American Progress.
- Gilens, Martin. 2023. "[Race, Gender, and Partisan Politics in the United States.](#)" PNAS.
- England, Paula. 2023. "[Part of the Gender Gap in Voting for Democrats Arises Because a Higher Proportion of Women than Men Voters are Black.](#)"
- National Women's Law Center. 2019. "[Voters' Priorities for the New Congress.](#)"
- Elangovan, Priya. 2023. "[Abortion and Cost of Living Continue to be Voting Issues for 2024-New All In Together Polling.](#)" All in Together.
- Cox, Daniel. 2024. "[The War within Gen Z.](#)" Business Insider.
- Bowman, Karlyn and Daniel Cox. 2022. "[Gender, Generation and Abortion: Shifting Politics and Perspectives after Roe.](#)"

Class Activity

1. Introduction of the topic, when applicable connect to previous lectures and/or assignments.
 - Be sure to set the stage to highlight how laws and everyday practices have limited who is eligible to vote and who can exercise their right to vote.
 - Remind students of concepts such as femininity, masculinity, intersectionality, gendered expectations, etc.
2. In small groups (approx. 4 students) have students brainstorm about the factors that influence how different groups vote. Encourage them to think broadly about societal expectations regarding gender/race/age, individual experiences, individual identities (gender, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, migration background, (dis)ability, socioeconomic status, etc., and the intersections of these.
3. As an entire class, have people share what they discussed in their small groups. Facilitate a dialogue between the students.
4. Returning to their small groups, give them the handout with the selected statistics, and have them analyze these, perhaps identifying patterns and trends. Ask them to identify patterns, think about if any of the statistics surprised them and if so, why. Encourage them to go back to their initial discussion and see if what they discussed is reflected in the data. Finally, ask them to investigate the sources of the data (when, who, where, what).
5. As an entire class, have people share what they discussed in their small groups. Facilitate a dialogue between the students.
6. Conclude the activity with a debriefing session. Ask students what their takeaway points from this activity were. Encourage students to reflect on whether their own perceptions of gender and voting patterns and preferences changed or were reinforced through the activity.