

Women's Suffrage: The Impact It Had on Chicago, Illinois, and the United States

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Individual Exhibit

Exhibit: 1,471 Words

Process Paper: 489 Words

Process Paper

As a female myself, I am fascinated by our history. I wanted to find a project that represented that. Our rich and bountiful history is filled with victories, and also failures. While researching for possible options, I came across Jane Addams. I read a little bit about her and became immediately fascinated with her and her work in women's history. As I researched more about her, I eventually came across women's suffrage. I realized that I didn't know much about this topic so I decided to research a little more into it. Afterwards, I was shocked at the hard work, dedication, and especially perseverance of all the suffragists that dedicated their lives to this long lasting mission to give women suffrage. Their struggle consisted of protesting, debating, publishing, all in order to hopefully convince the government to agree with them and accept the offer that they have been quarreling for, for 70 years. I feel that it is my responsibility to share it with the world, so that their fight can not be forgotten.

I began by researching the history of women's suffrage. How long it lasted. Who played a major role. As I researched, I found hundreds of newspapers and magazines from when this movement took place. These became one of my most important sources. I read about how they fought. I learned about how people tried to get them to stop. But still they persevered. As I researched this, I became fascinated with the question of had anything changed. I kept researching, learning about the posters they published, the speeches they made, but still the question nagged at me. I realized that I was ignoring maybe one of the most important parts of women's suffrage. What came after? Has anything actually changed? I mean sure, they had the right to vote, that was great, but had anything monumental happened? I found a lot of statistics, and even some papers from the 1900s. And yes, a lot has changed.

I chose to do an exhibit because I wanted to display the movement as it took place, in the 18 and 1900s. I wanted the audience to see the struggles they went through, see their fights, and see the outcomes. In my opinion, words aren't enough to express the story of women's suffrage.

The decades that women spent fighting for their right to vote was filled with protests, debates, and diplomatic actions. The outcome of this movement was major reformations in Chicago, Illinois, and the United States.

My topic is very important in history for obvious reasons. From 1848 to 1920, women spent their days fighting for one thing. The right to vote. It came in slow increments, local, school, municipal, national, and finally everything due to the ratification of the 19th amendment.

Now women have the right to vote and a say in their lives. They are no longer confined to the man's world. It is theirs now.

Annotated Bibliography

Primary

“Deserting the Old Idol / Dalrymple.” *The Library of Congress*

This is one of the posters from the women's suffrage movement. This source shows me about some of the arguments women had. It also showed what the reasons they provided were.

Eckert, Fred W. “Effects of Women's Suffrage on the Political Situation in the City of Chicago.” *Political Science Quarterly*, vol. 31, no. 1, 1916, p. 105., doi:10.2307/2141706.

This is an image of a study from 1915 that shows the percentage of women voters to men voters. It shows how women used their right to vote to change things tremendously.

“Give Mother the Vote, We Need It”, National Woman Suffrage Publishing Company, New York.

This is another poster from the women's suffrage movement. It taught me about some of the things that the country was having trouble with due to the fact that women couldn't vote.

Humanities, National Endowment for the. “The Pensacola Journal. (Pensacola, Fla.) 1898-1985, June 20, 1909, Section 2, Image 9.” *News about Chronicling America RSS*, Mayes & Co. This is a newspaper article where one of the columns talks about women voting in elections. This helped me realize how the quality of education was increased, but only in the sections where women could vote.

“Image 4 of Law Library Copy.” *The Library of Congress*

This source is an image of a written speech before the committee. This helped me learn about the ways that women fought and also what their reasons were.

“Looking Backward / Laura E. Foster.” *The Library of Congress*

This is an image of a poster that some anti suffragists put up. I got to learn more about why people didn't want women to vote. It also helped me understand the atmosphere that women were fighting in.

“Voting Rights for Women : The Right to Vote : Elections : Classroom Materials at the Library

of Congress : Library of Congress.” *The Library of Congress*

“Women Marching in Suffrage Parade in Washington, DC.” *DocsTeach*, 3 Mar. 1913

This is a photo of the women in a suffrage parade in 1913. This photo showed me the importance of this movement through the amount of women present and the organization of it all.

“Women Vote in Seattle Elections.” *The Library of Congress*

This is a newspaper where one of the columns talks about the women voting in Seattle Elections. This showed me the huge impact of women voters through the fact that the election winner was changed due to the women's votes.

Secondary

Evanstonhistorycenter. “Early Suffrage in Illinois: A.J. Grover and the Earlville Suffrage Association.” *Suffrage 2020 Illinois*, 24 Jan. 2020

This is an article about the history of women's suffrage. It helped me understand the events leading up to the ratification of the 19th amendment.

Hesse, Monica. “Women's Suffrage Was a Giant Leap for Democracy. We Haven't Stuck the Landing Yet.” *The Washington Post*, WP Company, 3 Aug. 2020

This is a website not only about the success of women's suffrage, but also the many problems we still have to fix. This source taught me about the new lack of discrimination against women in educational settings after women's suffrage.

“Illinois and the 19th Amendment (U.S. National Park Service).” *National Parks Service*, U.S. Department of the Interior
This is a website about Illinois specifically after the ratification of the 19th amendment. This source taught me about the new representation Illinois had after women got the right to vote. It also taught me about the stages that women's suffrage came in.

Jannot, Mark. “What If Women's Suffrage Never Happened?” *Marie Claire Magazine*, Marie Claire (US), 5 Oct. 2020
This is a website on the events after women suffrage. This website helped me understand the significance of the women's vote and how it impacted many elections.

Kose, Esra, et al. “Women's Enfranchisement and Children's Education: The Long-Run Impact of the U.S. Suffrage Movement.” *SSRN Electronic Journal*, 2016, doi:10.2139/ssrn.2826982.
This is a study done by 3 economists on how suffrage impacted education. This helped me learn more about what the actual impact was of women's suffrage, specifically on enrollment rates in schools.

Villagomez, Jessica. “‘I Was Part of History and I Was Making History’: Illinois Marks Centennial of Ratifying 19th Amendment, Giving Women Right to Vote.” *Chicagotribune.com*, Chicago Tribune, 10 June 2019
This source talks about Illinois connection to women's suffrage. This source provided me with information on how women spoke up at conventions about the importance of women's suffrage.

“President Woodrow Wilson Picketed by Women Suffragists.” *History.com*, A&E Television Networks, 16 Nov. 2009
This is a website about the events surrounding the women picketing the White House. This clarified exactly why they did what they did.

Wolbrecht. *A Century of Votes for Women: American Elections Since Suffrage*. Cambridge University Press, 2020.
This book is about the elections that occurred after womens suffrage. This helped me learn about the effect that women had on politicians in their new worries about pleasing the women voters.

“Woman Suffrage.” *Jane Addams Digital Edition*
This is a website all about the history of womens suffrage. It helped me learn about the techniques that suffragists used to fight for womens right to vote.

Wong, Alia. “How Women's Suffrage Improved Education for a Whole Generation of Children.” *The Atlantic*, Atlantic Media Company, 29 Aug. 2018
This source speaks about the effect of women's vote on education. It helped me learn about the changes in children in school after women had a say in what happened.

