100 Years of Universal Suffrage: A Toolkit for Educators

This toolkit was assembled by Cherie Spino, Lee McLaird, and Lee Hakel who are members of the 100th Anniversary Committee of the League of Women Voters of Toledo Lucas-County, Bowling Green, and Perrysburg, Judith Kehrle Chair. We hope this will be helpful as you lead your students in studying the 19th amendment to the US Constitution, which gave women the right to vote. You are free to use it and share it with others. Underlined words can be used to locate information on the Web.

Grades 1-4

- **Birthday party for 19th Amendment.** Make suffrage sashes and parade through school to a rally.

  **How to make Votes for Women Sashes**

  **Materials needed:**
  - A 6-foot length of 2.5-inch wide, 100% polypropylene white ribbon for each sash (not satin or sateen; Celebrate It Mega brand ribbon is available online)
  - Black permanent markers with a wide tip
  - Stapler

  1. Measure out 6-foot lengths of ribbon. Fold in half and set aside.
  2. Prepare a table top with a covering; black permanent markers will bleed through.
  3. Write “Votes for Women” on one sash in 2- to 3-inch high letters. Fasten this to the table so it can’t be picked up or moved. This will be a guide for the sash makers.
  4. Invite the sash makers to write “Votes for Women” on their own sash. While they are doing that, tell them about suffrage and how women got the vote with the passage of the 19th amendment. Stencils can be used, also.
  5. Put the sash on and staple in the appropriate place for a fit.

- **Voting exercise.** Have the class vote on something (an activity or pizza/snack) but only half the class gets to vote. After the voting and the activity have a class discussion on the following questions:
  - How does it feel to be excluded from the decision-making?
  - Why do you want to have a vote?
  - Would the result have been different if everyone voted?

- **Lesson module on suffrage.** Includes materials, discussion questions, activities and resources.

- **National Education Association lesson plans.** Includes activities, resources and videos.
Grades 5-8 and High School

- **Birthday party for 19th Amendment.** Make suffrage sashes and parade through school to a rally. Contact Lee Hakel (lhakel@gmail.com) with the League of Women Voters Bowling Green for help in “hosting” the rally and making sashes.

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- **Recreate trial of Susan B. Anthony.** On November 5, 1872, Susan B. Anthony cast a ballot in the presidential election, though women at the time were prohibited from doing so. Two weeks later, she was arrested, and the following year, she was found guilty of illegal voting. The following tools were developed by Teacher Mike Godfrey of the Eastwood School District, Ohio to recreate the trial in a classroom.

  **POTENTIAL 8TH GRADE TRAIL SCHEDULE**

  **Day 1**
  - Teams revealed
  - Jury sent to another room to begin their work (This could be research on other cases or trials [civil or criminal])
  - Basic info given to prosecution and defendant teams; begin research
  - Plan to do some research and planning for homework each night!!

  **Day 2**
  - Research; in last ten minutes split the teams into main argument or rebuttal roles
  - Jury continues with their assignments

  **Day 3**
  - Begin to develop your own arguments and continued research
  - Jury continues with new assignments
  - Use some of the weekend to develop your argument/speech

  **Day 4**
  - Continued work

  **Day 5**
  - Trial practice...will need three rooms to do this as the jury will continue to do their assignments

  **Day 6**
  - Trail starts at 7:50 (if not earlier)

  **Day 7**
  - Closing arguments and jury begins deliberations; as jury works, teams will be given individual and peer evals
Day 8 Verdict (if not given on day 7) and debriefing

OPENING AND CLOSING ARGUMENT IDEAS FOR THE TRIAL OF SUSAN B. ANTHONY

Opening Statement for Prosecution/Plaintiff

- Brief account of facts and circumstances that led to the case
- Summary of key facts your side will present
- Decision you feel the jury should reach
- Avoid
  - Too much detail
  - Exaggerations like phrases such as “prove it to a mathematical certainty” or “prove it beyond question”
  - Anticipating what the defense will present
  - Walking or pacing as it distracts the jury and irritates a judge

Opening Statement for the Defense

- Deny that the prosecution/plaintiff has a valid case
- Outline your main facts/arguments
- Facts that may weaken the prosecution/plaintiff case
- Avoid
  - Too much detail
  - Exaggerations like phrases such as “prove it to a mathematical certainty” or “prove it beyond question”
  - Anticipating what the defense will present
  - Walking or pacing as it distracts the jury and irritates a judge

Your Arguments

- Present info/facts/evidence that will be favorable to you
- Present facts with understanding and clarity to convince the jury of your sound case
- Show confidence; Rehearse!!

Closing Statements

- Summarize the key points of your case
- Undermine/shoot holes in the opponent’s case
- Tie facts to the law and be persuasive
- Ask the jury to rule in your favor

- Write biography of suffragist. Have students write a short biography of one of the suffragists. Include a list of possible candidates (Lucretia Mott, Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Julia Ward Howe, Victoria Woodhull, Alice Paul…)
  - Share with the class
Hold an event (maybe a wax museum), inviting parents/community members to come and learn about the suffragists. Perhaps include an 19th amendment anniversary celebration/party/rally.

- **The right to vote around the world.** Remind students that American women were granted the vote in 1920, yet many women around the world still do not have the right to vote. Ask students to do research to find out where women still do not have the vote. Suggest that students color-code a map to show countries where men can vote but women cannot vote.

- **The power of one vote.** The Middleton Massachusetts Website has an excellent list of voting outcomes that were decided by a single vote. [https://middletonma.gov/303/The-Power-of-One-Vote](https://middletonma.gov/303/The-Power-of-One-Vote)

- **Create a suffrage newspaper.** Have each student conduct research about a famous suffragist and write a paragraph on their chosen person. They should also find a photograph or other visual element to create a newspaper article. Once you read and approve these paragraphs, have students compile their articles into a class newspaper for all to read. Share with rest of the school.

- **Design suffrage posters.** Review suffrage posters and have students design their own posters. Compare them to actual posters. What kinds of messages/pictures would you use to persuade people?

- **Stage a protest or march** for a cause in your school. Discuss how your protest/march is similar and different from those of the suffragists.
  - How would you try to persuade people?
  - What arguments did you come up against?
  - Were some people more sympathetic to the cause than others?

- **Imagine you are a suffragist** urging people to sign your petition for a statewide referendum on the issue. What arguments do you mobilize to influence people to sign your petition? What counter arguments do you hear from those passing by in the street who oppose women’s suffrage?

- In 1913, Holland’s magazine sponsored an essay contest on the women’s suffrage. Have the students write an article in response to the magazine. What would you say about why women should have the vote?

- **Write a letter to President Wilson** outlining why women should/shouldn’t have the right to vote.

- **Suffrage Strategies: Voices for Votes.** Lesson plans from the Library of Congress.

- **Lesson module on suffrage.** Includes materials, discussion questions, activities and resources.

- **National Education Association lesson plans.** Includes activities, resources and videos.

- **Lesson plans on suffrage** from Teaching Tolerance.

- **Teacher’s Activity Guide** on suffrage from [Library of Congress primary data](https://www.loc.gov).
RESOURCES

- **Woman Suffrage and the 19th Amendment** (primary sources and teaching activities from the National Archives)
- **Women of Protest: Photographs from the Records of the National Woman's Party** (Library of Congress)
- **National Women’s History Alliance Gazette.** Great resource about centennial celebrations across the United States. about centennial celebrations in US – great ideas
- **Woman Suffrage** (Virginia Commonwealth University). Great resource with links to more information on key players in the suffrage movement and critical events.
- **Schoolhouse Rock video** on suffrage.
- **Books on suffrage,** organized by grade level.
- **Iron Jawed Angles,** film (includes graphic scenes of beating and forced feeding)
- **https://guides.loc.gov/american-women-essays/marching-for-the-vote** Excellent article from the Library of Congress on suffrage.
- **100-year old suffrage posters recently rediscovered** https://www.bbc.com/news/in-pictures-42875095
- The National Park Service, National Archives, Public Broadcasting, and the Smithsonian Institute all have resource materials.

Field Trips

- BGSU archives suffrage exhibition July 1 to August 16, 2020. During the school year, call 419-372-2411 to arrange a field trip to the archives. Librarians can pull materials and do presentations on suffrage for classes.
- **Ohio History Connection Displays in Northwest Ohio**
  - February 10-15 Oregon Branch Toledo Lucas County Public Library
  - February 15, Valentine Theater
  - February 16-29 Main Branch Toledo Lucas County Public Library
  - March 1-5 Generational Atrium of ProMedica Hospital, Toledo
  - March 13-22 Way Public Library, Perrysburg
  - March 22-31 Bowling Green Public Library
  - August 1-15 Sauder Village, Archbold
  - August 16-25 Hayes Presidential Library and Museums, Fremont
  - August 21- 25 Imagination Station
  - September 20 – 25 Wood County Courthouse lobby
- **Women of Spiegel Grove, Finding Her Voice** at Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Library and Museums at Spiegel Grove. This special exhibit runs through March 29, 2020, and features women’s history from suffrage to #metoo. For information, call 419-332-2081, or visit rbhayes.org.
- Board of Elections. Google your local County Board of Elections and arrange for a tour and/or use of a voting machine.
**State and Local Resources**

Governance resources for women currently serving
- En.wikipedia.org/wiki/women-in-house-of-representatives
- Senate.gov/senators/list of women senators.htm
- Female State governors, 44 in all, 9 currently serving (Wikipedia)
  - Cawp.rutgers.edu/list-women-currently-serving-congress

**State resources**
- Ohio Suffrage Centennial.com/connections (excellent list of Ohio’s contributions)
- Ohio Women’s Suffrage Committee
- League of Women Voters Ohio
- Ohio History Connection display (in February, March, August, and September throughout NW Ohio) See www.lwvbg.org for listing of display.

**Local resources**
- Mazza display of original illustrations from books on suffrage
- Findlay University Lecture (date to be announced)
- 100th Anniversary Calendar of events (see www.lwvbg.org)
- League of Women Voters Toledo Lucas County
- League of Women Voters Perrysburg
- League of Women Voters Bowling Green

**Theater resources**
- Rally (7 performances so far: 30-minute performance)
- Opera Guild event at Toledo Museum of Art Arias in the Galleries (April 14)
- Toledo Opera performance of Scalia/Ginsburg (April 17, 2020)

**Media resources**
- WGTE (Backstory: 30 minute shows the 4th Thursday of each month, 8:30 pm)

**Book resources**
- Ask your local library for book lists. They all have them.
  - *The Women’s Hour* by Elaine Weiss
  - *Votes for Women*, National Portrait Gallery from their extensive exhibition

**Movie resources**
- Iron Jawed Angels (not for young children)
- Toledo Museum of Art film series on Women’s Suffrage, public tours focusing on women artists

**Calendar**
A calendar of LWV 100th anniversary events will be posted and updated on the League of Women Voters Bowling Green website: www.lwvbg.org.
Additional Resources: There are general teacher materials related to suffrage that are available online here: https://www.ohiohistory.org/learn/suffrage-centennial/ohio-women-vote