

## Document 1

### The Woman Suffrage Movement By Booker T. Washington

I am in favor of every measure that will give to woman, the opportunity to develop to the highest possible extent, her moral, intellectual, and physical nature so that she may make her life as useful to herself and to others as it is possible to make it. I do not, at the present moment, see that this involves the privilege or the duty, as you choose to look upon it, of voting.

The influence of woman is already enormous in this country. She exerts, not merely in the homes, but through the schools and in the press, a powerful and helpful influence upon affairs. It is not clear to me that she would exercise any greater or more beneficent influence upon the world than she now does, if the duty of taking an active part in politics were imposed upon her.

But this is a question concerning which, it seems to me, the women know better than men, and I am willing to leave it to their deliberate judgment.

## Document 2

### W.E.B. Du Bois, The Crisis

To say that men protect women with their votes is to overlook the flat testimony of the facts. In the first place there are millions of women who have no natural men protectors: the unmarried, the widowed, the deserted and those who have married failures. To put this whole army incontinently out of court and leave them unprotected and without voice in political life is more than unjust, it is a crime.

## Document 3

### ANTI-WOMAN SUFFRAGE DON'T FAIL TO READ THIS.

At the election to be held November 7th, an amendment to the State Constitution conferring the right of suffrage upon women, will be voted on. The attitude of the press leaves those not in favor of the amendment no other way of reaching the people, except by a general distribution of these circulars, which we hope will have the effect of calling the attention of voters to the dangerous consequences of this measure to society, home and government and that he will not fail to put an X against the words on his ballot--

EQUAL SUFFRAGE NOT APPROVED.

#### Document 4



It has been insisted that the real purpose of this amendment is to deprive the Southern States of representation in part in Congress...In those Southern States where the colored population outnumbers the white, to double the number of ignorant voters by giving the colored woman the right to vote would produce a condition that would be absolutely intolerable. We owe something to the wishes and the sentiments of the people of our sister States struggling to maintain law and order and white supremacy.... We are engaged now in a great foreign war. It is not the proper time to change the whole electoral system... Patriotism, in my judgment, forbids the injection of this issue into national politics at this time.

Source: Representative John A. Moon of Tennessee, speech in House of Representatives, January 10, 1918, on the issue of the woman suffrage amendment

#### Document 5

## Document 6

The Suffragists' ideal is a kitchen-less house. The Suffragist keeps writing and speaking about pots and pans, and denounces housekeeping as degrading. The Suffragists teach women to revolt against the daily task of tending child and house, and we sadly see the results in the nation's poor health and lowered physique. It is the Suffragist theory that women's sphere in life should be the same as the man's. Is it not clear how this hideous feminism is sapping our vitality as a nation? Is it too much to say that it lies at the root of half the sickness and disease in our country? There are many wealthy women who support Suffragism, and who do a very dangerous thing in preaching to working women that housework is degrading. As long as a working woman keeps her home clean and well tended, she enjoys the high regard of her neighbors. Yet, now the more weak-minded have been influenced by the Suffragists' snobbish preaching. Such feminism is destroying our national character and warping the natural impulses and beliefs that make a woman's life such a beautiful work of art.

Source: Article from an anti-suffrage newspaper, *The Woman's Protest Against Woman's Suffrage*, published in New York by the National Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage, in October 1912.

## Document 7

Suffrage is not a natural right. It is a question to be determined by the community solely by a consideration of its effect upon the public welfare. The majority of the women do not want to assume the burden of government. A very small minority of women demand the ballot. It is unjust to force new duties upon a large body of women who are indifferent or opposed to woman suffrage.

Voting is only a small part of government. If the duty of voting is laid upon women, the duty will also be laid upon them of taking an active part in the preliminaries necessary to voting, and in the consequences which result from voting. They must take part in political discussions and share in political campaigns, and see that the laws which they help to enact are enforced upon those that refuse to obey the laws

Do women want the vote? ... Issued by the National state association opposed to woman suffrage, 29 West 39th Street, New York [1894].

## VOTES FOR WOMEN! THE WOMAN'S REASON.

### BECAUSE

- BECAUSE** women must obey the laws just as men do,  
They should vote equally with men.
- BECAUSE** women pay taxes just as men do, thus supporting the government,  
They should vote equally with men.
- BECAUSE** women suffer from bad government just as men do,  
They should vote equally with men.
- BECAUSE** mothers want to make their children's surroundings better,  
They should vote equally with men.
- BECAUSE** over 5,000,000 women in the United States are wage workers and their health and that of our future citizens are often endangered by evil working conditions that can only be remedied by legislation,  
They should vote equally with men.
- BECAUSE** women of leisure who attempt to serve the public welfare should be able to support their advice by their votes,  
They should vote equally with men.
- BECAUSE** busy housemothers and professional women cannot give such public service, and can only serve the state by the same means used by the busy man—namely, by casting a ballot,  
They should vote equally with men.
- BECAUSE** women need to be trained to a higher sense of social and civic responsibility, and such sense develops by use,  
They should vote equally with men.
- BECAUSE** women are consumers, and consumers need fuller representation in politics,  
They should vote equally with men.
- BECAUSE** women are citizens of a government of the people, by the people and for the people, and women are people.  
They should vote equally with men.

**EQUAL SUFFRAGE FOR MEN AND WOMEN.**

**WOMEN** Need It.  
**MEN** Need It.  
**The STATE** Needs It.

### **WHY?**

**BECAUSE**

**Women Ought To GIVE Their Help.**  
**Men Ought To HAVE Their Help.**  
**The State Ought To USE Their Help.**

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**National American Woman Suffrage Association**

**Headquarters: 505 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK**



## Document 9

It has often been pointed out that women could not, with justice, ask to legislate upon matters of war and peace, as no woman can do military duty; but this point may be extended much further. No woman can have any practical knowledge of shipping and navigation, of the work of trainmen on railways, of mining, or of many other subjects of the highest importance. Their legislation, therefore, would not probably be intelligent, and the laws they devised for the betterment of sailors, trainmen, miners, etc., might be highly objectionable to the very persons they sought to benefit. If obedience should be refused to these laws, who is to enforce them? The men? Is it likely they will? And if the effort should be made, what stupendous disorders would occur! The entire execution of the law would be in the hands of men, backed up by an irresponsible electorate which could not lift a finger to apprehend or punish a criminal. And if all the dangers and difficulties of executing the law lay upon men, what right have women to make the law?

But that woman suffrage tends to divorce, is plain to all who know anything of men and women. Political differences in families, between brothers, for example, who vote on differing sides, do not promote harmony. How much more inharmonious must be political differences between a husband and wife, each of whom has a vote which may be used as a weapon against the other? What is likely to be the state of that family, when the husband votes one ticket, and the wife votes another?

*Source: Excerpt from Molly Elliot Seawell, an anti-suffragist from Virginia who published the anti-suffrage book, The Ladies' Battle, in 1911.*

## Document 10

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Source: Constitution of the United States of America, Amendment 19

How do Americans feel about women’s suffrage?  
**Group Claim:** How do Americans feel about women’s suffrage?

Issue	Argument for Suffrage	Argument Against Suffrage
The Founding Fathers		
The Family		
African Americans		
The Home		
The Rights of States		
Husbands		
Other		

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**Evidence to support this claim:**

**1.**

**2.**

**3.**

**Final Claim:** How do Americans feel about women's suffrage?

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**1.**

**2.**

**3.**

[illegible]



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Women's Suffrage

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Progressive Era

Historical Background: The political battle for women to possess the right to vote started in the mid -1800s. Suffragettes such as Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Sojourner Truth and Lucretia Mott invoked passages from America's "Declaration of Independence" to persuade Americans that women's suffrage is consistent with the inalienable rights that the United States of America was founded upon. However, this political goal would not be achieved quickly. It took the dedication, courage and perseverance of numerous people to achieve this goal. And it is beyond reproach that the United States moved closer towards becoming "a more perfect union" when the goal was reached.

**Task:** Define the following terms and discuss the roles of the following people, organizations and events in your notes under the heading of "Road to Women's Suffrage. Use your notes and the documents to prepare an essay on the people, events and obstacles faced for those involved in the women's suffrage movement.

- Seneca Falls Convention
- "Declaration of Sentiments"
- 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment
- Susan B. Anthony arrested for voting fraud
- Wyoming 1869
- Women's Christian Temperance Union
- NAWSA
- Carrie Chapman Catt
- Ida B Wells- Barnett
- International Ladies' Garment Workers Union
- Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire
- Alice Paul
- Lucy Burns
- Women's Suffrage March on Washington- 1913
- Margaret Sanger
- Jeannette Rankin
- Harry Burn of Tennessee
- 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment

**Essay:** Describe the numerous efforts taken by those involved in the Women's Suffrage Movement that contributed to the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> change to the United States Constitution.