

Name: _____

A Woman's Right to Vote

In the late 1800s and the early 1900s, when suffragists campaigned for a woman's right to vote, the movement proposed two different reasons why they should be granted this right:

1. Women deserve equal rights, including the ballot
2. Women will elevate politics and promote reform

Instructions: Read and Examine both documents carefully then answer the following questions:

1. In **Article 1** – The Woman's Reason – list two reasons supporting a woman's right to vote that reflect each of the two arguments noted above

2. In **Article 2** – Plain Facts for the Working Man – list two reasons supporting a woman's right to vote that reflect each of the two arguments noted above

3. In your opinion, are there any specific reasons listed in the two documents that would have won your support for suffrage? Explain

4. Of the two arguments, The Woman's Reason and the Plain Facts for the Working Man, which would you have most supported? Why?

5. How can historians account for the fact that some women did not support a woman's right to vote?

6. If a 19th century suffragist visited us today, would that visitor be pleased with the changes that have taken place in women's rights? Explain.

Article 1

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 8,000,000 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.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE PARTY

OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Headquarters: 30 East 34th Street, Southwest cor. Madison Avenue



Article 2

PLAIN FACTS FOR THE WORKING MAN

You know that your vote helps you to get better working conditions. Why? **Because it helps elect to office the men who can get you what you want.**

If you were to die to-morrow and your wife or daughters had to work, **they would need the vote for the same reasons.**

You love your family, but you are away all day at work and your wife looks after the children and the home.

Think what happens when the food supply has not been properly inspected, when there is cheating in weights and measures and in the quality of goods. **Your earnings are wasted.**

Think what happens when there are not enough schools or playgrounds. **Your children go without education and play in the crowded streets.**

Think what happens when housing laws are bad, and streets are filthy and milk isn't pure. **Your babies sicken and die.**

Think what happens when dance halls and theatres are not decent, and when unlawful sale of "dope" is carried on. **Your boys and girls are in danger of going wrong.**

Remember you haven't time to look after all these things, and your wife's complaints to the City departments that control them, **do no good because she hasn't the vote.**

And don't forget there are more working people in this State than any other kind. When you let the women vote, you will double your power for getting what you need.

THINK IT OVER

and

Vote for the Woman Suffrage Amendment

NEW JERSEY WOMAN SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION

Headquarters: 309 Park Avenue, Plainfield

