

# Debating the Women's Suffrage Movement: Advocates and Opponents

by Tori Rice

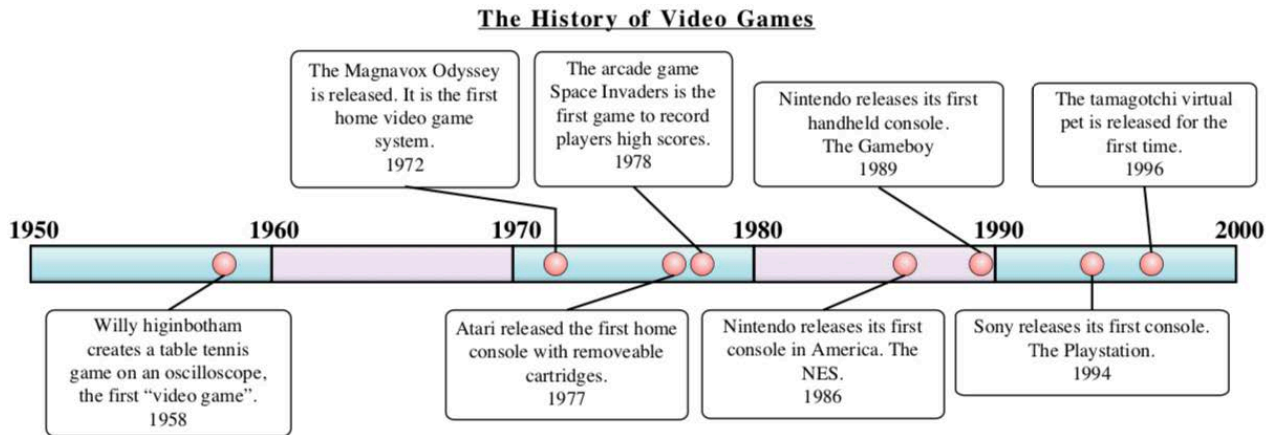
Eighth Grade  
History Social Science  
Academic Standard  
8.6.6 Examine the Women's Suffrage Movement (e.g., biographies, writings, and speeches of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Margaret Fuller, Lucretia Mott, Susan B. Anthony).

Description	Students investigate the arguments, strategies, and tactics of suffragists and anti-suffragists of the women's suffrage movement leading up to the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment. Then they step into the shoes of a person in the 1900s to debate both sides of the issue, examining the reasons to support or oppose a women's right to vote.
Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Examine the efforts of those seeking voting rights for women and those who opposed the movement.</li><li>• Deepen understanding of the cause and effect of the strategies used by the different figures in the women's suffrage movement leading up to the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment.</li><li>• Strengthen research and writing skills.</li><li>• Encourage creativity and collaboration.</li><li>• Synthesize students' findings and connect the past to the present.</li></ul>
Materials	paper and/or notebook, pencil/pen, optional: props, costume pieces (hats, glasses, cardboard, sheets, etc.), women of the Suffrage Movement graphic organizer
Vocabulary	<p>Suffrage – the right to vote in political elections</p> <p>Suffragist – a person advocating for a person's right to vote</p> <p>Anti-suffragism – a political movement composed of both men and women that began in the late nineteenth century in order to campaign against a woman's right to vote</p>
Research	<p>Focus questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Who were the suffragists and anti-suffragists involved with the women's suffrage movement? Use the Women of the Suffrage Movement graphic organizer to collect information.</li><li>• Why did so many states deny women the right to vote?</li><li>• Why was women's suffrage legal in some states?</li><li>• What strategies did women and organizations use to win the right to vote? Which were most successful? What made them successful?</li></ul>

- What role did state governments play in extending voting rights to women? What role did the federal government play?

Timeline

Create a timeline based on pivotal moments in the women’s suffrage movement leading up to the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment. Here is an example of a timeline on “The History of Video Games” (commoncoresheets.com).



Debate

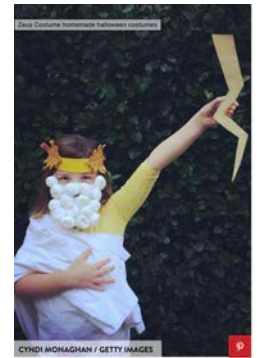
Invite a household member to work with you to prepare a debate about suffrage from the perspective of people in the early 1900s. Use your research to make a list using the chart below, “Should Women Be Allowed to Vote?” (Hint: use your graphic organizer, timeline and focus questions to help you create arguments to support or oppose the issue.)

<b>Should Women Be Allowed To Vote?</b>	
Reasons to support	Reasons to oppose

Hold a debate with your partner, where you each play a person in the 1900s for or against women’s suffrage. Invite other household members to watch the debate or hold a FaceTime/Zoom meeting. Dress up in 1900s style using items from your home. (Use the graphic organizer for clues of the fashion of the time period.)

Sample Zeus costume from cardboard, a sheet and cotton balls.>>>

Let your audience decide who won the debate!




Reflection



Discuss with your household member or a family member through Zoom and/or your audience:

- Why was the women’s suffrage movement important?
- How are the struggles and goals of the women’s suffrage movement still relevant today?
- Who are some of the influential women today who champion women’s rights?
- What do you imagine our society would look today like if women did not have voting rights?



Women of the Suffrage Movement graphic organizer designed by Tori Rice

<b>The Women’s Suffrage Movement – Advocates and Opponents</b>				
	<b>Background and beliefs</b>	<b>Goals</b>	<b>Strategies (include pros and cons of tactics used)</b>	<b>Quotes, speeches and/or books written</b>
 <p><b>Elizabeth Cady Stanton</b> (1815-1902) Suffragist</p>				



## The Women's Suffrage Movement – Advocates and Opponents

	Background and beliefs	Goals	Strategies (include pros and cons of tactics used)	Quotes, speeches and/or books written
 <p>The only known daguerreotype of Margaret Fuller (by John Plumbe, 1846)</p> <p><b>Margaret Fuller</b> (1810-1850) Suffragist</p>				
 <p><i>Lucretia Mott.</i></p> <p><b>Lucretia Coffin</b> (1793-1880) Suffragist</p>				



# The Women's Suffrage Movement – Advocates and Opponents

	Background and beliefs	Goals	Strategies (include pros and cons of tactics used)	Quotes, speeches and/or books written
 <p>Portrait of Susan B. Anthony that was in the <i>History of Woman Suffrage</i></p> <p><b>Susan B. Anthony</b> (1820-1906) Suffragist</p>				
 <p>Daguerreotype of Lucy Stone, circa 1860</p> <p><b>Lucy Stone</b> (1818-1893) Suffragist</p>				

## The Women's Suffrage Movement – Advocates and Opponents

	Background and beliefs	Goals	Strategies (include pros and cons of tactics used)	Quotes, speeches and/or books written
 <p style="margin-top: 10px;"><b>Ida B. Wells</b> (1862-1931) Suffragist</p>				
 <p style="margin-top: 10px;"><b>Ida Tarbell</b> (1857-1944) Critical of Women's Suffrage Movement</p>				

## The Women's Suffrage Movement – Advocates and Opponents

	Background and beliefs	Goals	Strategies (include pros and cons of tactics used)	Quotes, speeches and/or books written
 <p><b>Helen Kendrick Johnson</b> (1844-1917) Anti-Suffragist</p>				
 <p><b>Josephine Jewell Dodge</b> 1855-1928 Anti-Suffragist</p>				

## The Women's Suffrage Movement – Advocates and Opponents

	<b>Background and beliefs</b>	<b>Goals</b>	<b>Strategies (include pros and cons of tactics used)</b>	<b>Quotes, speeches and/or books written</b>
Any other influential women you would like to include?				