

Answer Key

Background Essay

1. Many were convinced that women needed a more direct influence on laws governing working conditions in factories and other workplaces.
2. Accept reasoned answers.
3. She was raised a Quaker, which likely informed her non-violent approach. Her travels to England exposed her to the more aggressive tactics of the British suffragists.
4. Catt executed a strategy to work on both the national and state levels for suffrage.
5. World War I increased the momentum of the suffrage movement as more women moved into the workforce to take the place of men who had gone off to fight the war. The contributions that women made to the war on the home front may have helped NAWSA when it resumed lobbying. Some Americans, like Paul, found the defense of “democracy” abroad when women were being denied the vote in the U.S. to be a reason to ramp up efforts.
6. Accept reasoned responses. Students might list the following principles and virtues with supporting examples from the essay:

Principles:

- equality, republican/representative government, popular sovereignty: Those supporting women’s suffrage argued that it was time to implement the Founding principle of equality by guaranteeing that women had an actual voice in electing those who represented them.
- federalism: Suffragists worked for both a constitutional amendment at the national level and for state laws to guarantee equal rights of women to participate in their government.
- inalienable rights: Without suffrage, women were dependent on others to protect their inalienable rights. The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire was a tragic example of the unreliability of that approach.
- freedom of speech/press/assembly: Alice Paul’s organization of a women’s march for rights, as well as silent vigil outside the White House were examples of powerful, peaceful efforts to keep their cause in the public eye.

Virtues:

- perseverance, contribution resourcefulness, courage, respect, and justice: These virtues were demonstrated by all the people who worked for women’s suffrage throughout the long struggle, even though they did not always agree on strategies. Students should offer specific examples and evidence.
- Moderation: Catt demonstrated moderation when she decided to curb NAWSA’s petitions during WWI.

Handout B: Sorting Arguments Venn Diagram

- Work at the state level to win the vote for women: Items 4, 5, 6
- Work at the state level AND seek a constitutional amendment to win the vote for women: Item 8
- Seek a constitutional amendment to win the vote for women: Items 1, 2, 3, 7

Handout E: Carrie Chapman Catt Speech Excerpt

Accept reasoned responses.