



Name _____ ANSWER KEY

Date _____ Class _____



ACTIVITY: Analyzing the Suffrage Debate

The struggle for women to gain the right to vote was long and difficult. People had very strong opinions on the issue, both for and against and they made those opinions known. Groups circulated pamphlets and flyers giving the reason for their side.

Directions: You will be examining two broadsides from the State Archives—one that is pro-woman suffrage and one that is anti-woman suffrage. Use the chart below to map out each side's arguments either for or against women gaining the vote.

Anti-Woman Suffrage	Pro-Woman Suffrage
Beware!	Twelve Reasons Why Women Should Vote
<p>What reasons does the broadside list against women's right to vote? List them in your own words.</p> <p>Letting women vote will "re-open the Negro Suffrage question" likely meaning that African American women will want to vote also. It says that it will mean a loss of states' rights and bring back a "period of reconstruction horrors" with female carpetbaggers coming in from the north. They say that letting women vote will cause the "present prosperity" to end.</p>	<p>What reasons does the broadside for list for women's right to vote? List them in your own words.</p> <p>Women are affected by laws and must obey them, yet they currently have no say in them. Women have experiences that would be helpful to legislation. If women voted, it would make young women more responsible. If women voted their sons would be more interested in public concerns. 8,000,000 women are working and have no say in laws that affect workers. Those who don't want women to work are basing their argument on prejudice, not reason.</p>
<p>What are the concerns of the person or group who wrote this? What are they worried about? What do they value?</p> <p>They value white males making decisions and being in charge. They are afraid their way of life and white male dominance will be lost if women are given the vote.</p>	<p>What are the concerns of the person or group who wrote this? What are they worried about? What do they value?</p> <p>They value the good of society and think women voting will benefit all. They are worried women and children's interests will not be represented unless women can vote.</p>
<p>How does the broadside try to evoke emotion?</p> <p>The writers use "Beware!" to provoke fear of what might happen if women are given the vote. They say that giving women the vote will cause harm to their way of life.</p>	<p>How does the broadside try to evoke emotion?</p> <p>It shows pride in women's accomplishments as citizens provokes worry that no vote is lowering women's position and value in society and is hurting children.</p>

BEWARE!

MEN OF THE SOUTH: Heed not the song of the suffrage siren! Seal your ears against her vocal wiles! For, no matter how sweetly she may proclaim the advantages of female franchise,—

REMEMBER that Woman Suffrage means a re-opening of the entire Negro Suffrage question; loss of state rights; and another period of reconstruction horrors, which will introduce a set of female carpet-baggers as bad as their male prototypes of the sixties.

DO NOT JEOPARDIZE the present prosperity of your sovereign states, which was so dearly bought by the blood of your fathers and the tears of your mothers, by again raising an issue which has already been adjusted at so great a cost.

NOTHING can be gained by woman suffrage and everything may be lost!

PC.1618, State Archives of N.C.

Twelve Reasons Why Women Should Vote

1. BECAUSE those who obey the laws should help to choose those who make the laws.
2. BECAUSE laws affect women as much as men.
3. BECAUSE laws which affect WOMEN are now passed without consulting them.
4. BECAUSE laws affecting CHILDREN should include the woman's point of view as well as the man's.
5. BECAUSE laws affecting the HOME are voted on in every session of the Legislature.
6. BECAUSE women have experience which would be helpful to legislation.
7. BECAUSE to deprive women of the vote is to lower their position in common estimation.
8. BECAUSE having the vote would increase the sense of responsibility among women toward questions of public importance.
9. BECAUSE public spirited mothers make public spirited sons.
10. BECAUSE about 8,000,000 women in the United States are wage workers, and the conditions under which they work are controlled by law.
11. BECAUSE the objections against their having the vote are based on prejudice, not on reason.
12. BECAUSE to sum up all reasons in one—IT IS FOR THE COMMON GOOD OF ALL.

Equal Suffrage Association of North Carolina

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Raleigh

PC.1618, State Archives of N.C.