



## **Amendment: The Equality and Rights of Persons, 1946**

### **ESSENTIAL QUESTION**

*Can Terminology Expand Rights?*

#### **Standards**

##### Social Studies

(6-8 & 9-12) I.1.3, I.1.4

8.C&G.1, 8.C&G.1.1, 8.C&G.1.2, 8.C&G.1.3, 8.C&G.1.5

8.C&G.1, 8.C&G.1.1, 8.C&G.1.2, 8.C&G.1.5, AH.C&G.1; AH.C&G.1.1, AH.C&G.1.2, AH.C&G.2.3

8.H.1, 8.H.1.2, 8.H.1.4, 8.H.2, 8.H.2.2, 8.H.2.3, AH.H.3.1

##### English Language Arts

RI.6-12.1, RI.7.3, RI.6-12.4, RI.6-8.5, RI.6-12.6, RI.7.7, RI.9-12.9, RI.6-12.10

SL.6-12.1, SL.6-8.5

L.6-12.1, L.6-12.4, L.6-12.6

##### Visual Arts

6-8.CX.1.2, B.CX.1.1, B.CX.1.2, I.CX.1.1, P.CX.1.1

B.V.1.4, I.V.1.3, I.V.1.4

#### **Standards for extension options**

##### Social Studies

(6-8) I.1.6, I.1.7, I.1.8, I.1.10 ; (9-12) I.1.5

8.B.1.1, 8.B.1.2, AH.B.1.6

AH.C&G.1.4, AH.H.3.2

##### English Language Arts

L.6-12.2, L.6-8.3, SL.9-12.5

W.6-12.2, W.6-12.3, W.6-12.5, W.6-12.4

##### Visual Arts

A.CX.2.2

## Objectives

- Analyze the 1946 Amendment—Equality & Rights of Persons—and understand its precedents.
- Assess the value of changing terminology in the political process

## Lesson Contents

Although state statutes changed in 1920, North Carolina’s constitution did not reflect the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment (U.S.) until amendments in 1946. The state legislature did not officially endorse the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment until 1971.

Precedents for the 1946 Amendment, Section 1, included the Declaration of Independence and the Declaration of Rights in the North Carolina Constitution of 1868. The phrase “all men are created equal” promoted racial equality with language that was familiar to most citizens. In 1946, the state legislature changed the language to "all persons are created equal." Although the state followed the national government in accepting women’s suffrage, its 1946 amendment made its constitution more inclusive than the federal constitution.

### Primary Sources

- **Amendment to the State Constitution, “The Equality and Rights of Persons,” 1946**, <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/Documents/Detail/amendment-of-north-carolina-constitution-regarding-the-equality-and-rights-of-persons/788796?item=788800>
- **World War I & II posters**, [https://digital.ncdcr.gov/collections/world-war-i?filter\\_10=Posters&applyState=true](https://digital.ncdcr.gov/collections/world-war-i?filter_10=Posters&applyState=true); [https://digital.ncdcr.gov/collections/world-war-ii?filter\\_10=Posters&applyState=true](https://digital.ncdcr.gov/collections/world-war-ii?filter_10=Posters&applyState=true)

### Folder Contents

- **Background: 1946 Amendment**
- **Activity: Women in Wartime**
- **Exit Ticket**

## Supplies

Projector (optional)

## Lesson Preparation

- Review the primary sources, transcription, related materials, and slides to determine which options are appropriate for your students. Note that this box contains a variety of options from which teachers can select, based on available time, learning goals, and student capacities.
- Access original documents and transcription to project for the class and zoom in as needed. These may be found via online links or as files on the accompanying flash drive.
- Keep answer keys at hand for any handouts you choose.
- Vocabulary terms for this lesson may be posted or projected to discuss as a class. If you prefer to distribute an individual handout, copy and modify this list (also found in the **Glossary** in the “Cross-Lesson Activities” folder) to print as a reference for each student or to create a quiz.

<b>emoluments</b>	a salary, fee, or profit from employment or office
<b>endowed</b>	empowered; supported
<b>inalienable</b>	cannot be taken away
<b>self-evident</b>	obvious; a natural right

- Make copies of any handouts you choose.
  - **Document Analysis** sheet (found in the cross-lesson activity folder) is an optional assignment for individual work with the 1946 amendment. Print double-sided 1 copy for each student for each document assigned.
  - **Background: 1946 Amendment** can be printed double-sided. Note: slides can substitute for background worksheets and may be more appropriate for upper levels. If selecting this worksheet, print 1 copy for each student.
  - **Activity: Women in Wartime** can be printed double-sided if opting to do as a worksheet, rather than class discussion. Print one copy for each student.
  - **Exit Ticket**—print and cut, 4 tickets per page (8 copies for 30 students).

## Background Knowledge (5 minutes)

Ask students: *Does the phrase, “All men are created equal” include all people? Why or why not?* Student answers will vary but should note that until recently, in English “men/man” included all people, according to definition.

## Procedure

- Ask students *why did terms change in the preamble of the state constitution in 1946?* Answers will vary but discussion should include that women’s wartime responsibilities proved their value as full citizens. (5 minutes)
- Find the **Glossary** in the **Cross-Lesson Activities** folder. Review, project, or distribute terms necessary to understand the document. Discuss any additional terms that cause students comprehension difficulty during the lesson. (10 minutes)
- Pass out **Document Analysis** sheets. These can be used for the entire 1946 amendment, “The Equality and Rights of Persons.” (15 minutes)
- Pass out **Background** worksheets and allow students to complete fact-check questions. Review answers using key. Note that content projected with slides or digital files and class discussion may be more appropriate for advanced students. For the recitation activity, read section 1 of the 1946 Amendment to the class. Students can work individually or with partners or small groups to memorize and practice reciting the passage. (20 minutes)
- Project slides or digital files of the 2 posters for class discussion or pass out **Activity: Women in Wartime**. (10 minutes)
- Pass out **Exit Tickets**. Allow time to complete before collecting. (5 minutes)
  - *What word or words in an official document or rule have made you feel excluded?*

## Extension Options

- Review all sections of the 1946 amendment (1,7,11,13,19, & 26), revising the Declaration of Rights, and compare with those sections of the [1868 constitution](#). In each 1946 section, the word “persons” replaces “men.” Looking at those sections in the 1868 constitution, rewrite each section in your own words to include all voters.
- Read a newspaper article in the “Around Capital Square” column by reporter Lynn Nisbet in the *Henderson Daily Dispatch*, August 21, 1946, p. 3. Nisbet lists several concerns about the revised language in the proposed “Equality and Rights of Persons” amendment. Write a letter to the paper from the future to advise readers on whether or not those concerns have merit.  
[newspapers.digitalnc.org/lccn/sn91068401/1946-08-21/ed-1/seq-3/](http://newspapers.digitalnc.org/lccn/sn91068401/1946-08-21/ed-1/seq-3/)

- Learn about the **Equal Rights Amendment** ([equalrightsamendment.org/](http://equalrightsamendment.org/)). Given the 1946 amendment, does North Carolina need the ERA? Should our state ratify it? Write an essay with your argument and supporting points.
- Explore posters of women subjects from World War I ([digital.ncdcr.gov/collections/world-war-i?filter\\_10=Posters&applyState=true](http://digital.ncdcr.gov/collections/world-war-i?filter_10=Posters&applyState=true)) and World War II ([digital.ncdcr.gov/collections/world-war-ii?filter\\_10=Posters&applyState=true](http://digital.ncdcr.gov/collections/world-war-ii?filter_10=Posters&applyState=true)). Create a digital exhibit. Identify themes or patterns in the portrayal of women. How did portrayals differ during each war?

### Field Trip Connection

Visit the **State Capitol**, where the General Assembly met prior to 1963 to approve amendments and laws.

Visit **Fort Fisher** to learn more about women's service in the military during WWII. Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASPs) arrived at nearby Camp Davis for duty in July 1943.

### Recommended Resources

National Park Service, "Women's Suffrage and WWI," <https://www.nps.gov/articles/womens-suffrage-wwi.htm>

"World War II at Fort Fisher," <https://historicsites.nc.gov/all-sites/fort-fisher/history/wwii-fort-fisher>

Alice Paul Center for Gender Justice, "Equal Rights Amendment," <https://www.equalrightsamendment.org/>