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Women Working Wonders

Nail polish, curling irons, lipstick, boys, texting. These are common topics in a girls everyday conversation... according to men. That just isn't it true. Women go through so many obstacles in their everyday lives. Way more than men can even imagine. We weren't even given the right to vote until 132 years after men were. The 19th amendment was ratified on August 18th, 1920. Before this passed, life only revolved around men. Men were the ones in power, and the women just had to stand by and agree to whatever they said. Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Stanton, and many other women, are the ones to thank for our vote. They had many obstacles in the way, but they fought long and hard to get women on top. And the funny thing is, they didn't even mention how to apply lipstick.

The women's suffrage movement started 71 years before the amendment was put into place. In 1848, Elizabeth Stanton and Lucretia Mott (along with many other women) introduced the concept of women's rights and the woman's right to vote at the inaugural women's rights convention at Seneca Falls. Thanks to this, in December of 1869, Wyoming became the first state to ratify a woman's right to vote. After this, women were protesting all over the country. Anthony was even arrested for illegally voting during the presidential election. California senator, Aaron Sargent, introduced the amendment to the Senate for the very first time. Anthony and Stanton drafted this amendment which said, "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex." And that is still used today.

This movement was very challenging. Men in power were doing everything they could to not let this amendment pass. There was a “anti-suffrage” movement and many papers were issued with headlines and ads that stated that women were “too delusional” and that women didn’t know what they wanted, and that they were too dumb to want the vote. Funnily enough, the men that were against the movement wanted to be anonymous while the women who were fighting and protesting gave themselves credit where credit was due. Not only did women have to deal with the men in power, they had to deal with the women that were against them too. The women against the amendment were mostly rich, white and were also married to the rich, white and powerful men. The anti-suffrage movement became bigger and bigger and gave the suffragists a lot more work to do, but they never gave up. They started planning riots and protests and even parades to grow the support of their movement. When the amendment finally passed, they still had to worry about the anti-suffragists, but the ones against them had no argument. Women got their rights and that was that, and they couldn’t take that away from them.

Even 100 years after the amendment was passed, women are still dealing with sexism and misoginism in our modern life. This makes having women in power so much more important. Anthony and Stanton aren’t the only ones fighting for women's rights. We now have to do that now for future generations. Women in political positions are the voices for all the women in America, and if we don’t have that, the country will be controlled by the men again, and we’ll have to start all over. Women need to use their power, and use the resources these suffragists gave to us in 1920. Reproductive rights, the wage gap, the common attacks against women, maternity leave and many more topics that are being debated right now are only things that women can relate to and give their opinions about. Women deserve and are meant to be in power.

The women's suffrage movement gave women a voice, and gave us an opportunity to be equal with men. With us in politics, men can't control our minds and our bodies. They gave us the right to enjoy the "girly things", but now they aren't just girly, they're womanly.

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