

Lucy Mullins

Persisterhood Essay Contest 2020

Cascades Academy 8th grade

October 12, 2020

Women Get The Vote

Injustice is a word that has followed us throughout history and has divided women from men. Injustice kept women from voting This year is the 100th anniversary celebrating the signing of the 19th amendment. Women would not be where they are today if it was not for a variety of strong women. These women paved the road for our future. A few important women activists that have helped defeat this injustice include: Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Sojourner Truth, Alice Paul, Carrie Chapman Catt, Ida B Wells, and Susan B Anthony. These women had to endure many obstacles due to their gender. Thanks to these important women who have empowered the new generation of girls and women, to go against a male dominated society, in order to have more equality in our everyday lives.

All of the women activists took huge strides in order for the 19th amendment to be passed; but with success, there are also challenges. One very important woman activist is Susan B Anthony. She was born on February 15, 1820, in Massachusetts. She grew up in a Quaker family and developed strong values early on in life. Susan's family was helping to end slavery by collecting anti-slavery petitions. They allowed their farm to be used as a meeting place for the abolitionists that were committed to ending slavery. This is the climate in which Susan grew up.

Soon after, Susan became the head of the girl's department at Canajoharie Academy. As Susan matured she started going to campaigns as well as an anti-slavery conference where she met another amazing woman activist by the name of Elizabeth Cady Stanton. Together they dedicated their lives to fighting for women's rights with the goal of establishing women as equals throughout America. This meant women would have the right to not only vote but to own land too.

In 1852, the two women established the Women's New York State Temperance Society. This would eventually lead to women gaining the power to divorce. The society also advocated for women to have the right to vote. Susan and Stanton established the American Equal Rights Association in 1866. This association worked "to secure equal rights to all American citizens, especially the right of suffrage, irrespective of race, color, or sex." Their message got out through their newspaper, *The Revolution*.

In 1896 Stanton and Susan created the National Woman Suffrage Association. They opposed the 19th amendment unless it included women as voters!! Men could join the association but women ran and controlled it. In 1872 Susan voted illegally in the presidential election. This act of activism resulted in her being arrested, but she never paid the \$100 fine. Not only did she risk her life for the wellbeing of women throughout the United States; she also met with Theodore Roosevelt to lobby for an amendment to give women the right to vote. But the 19th amendment was not passed until 1920, 14 years after the death of Susan B Anthony. Susan endured many obstacles throughout her journey but without these, our system may not

have changed. Both Anthony and Stanton are an inspiration to me. It is truly amazing what the power of one can achieve!

We have come a long way from not being able to vote. Now women have the ability to play active roles in politics, run companies, and play professional sports. I think it is crucial for women to continue to play active roles in politics. It is through these positions of power that women can help establish a society that is built around equality, social justice, and peace. Women offer and apply different perspectives and experiences in politics and decision making processes. The assortment of women and men working together, with equal power, while making decisions allows and encourages gender equality, as well as, women empowerment. Although “women only hold 23% of all seats in parliament and senate globally” I predict that our future will only continue to grow due to the continued growth of women empowerment.

Sources

<https://womendeliver.org/2018/why-women-in-politics/>

<https://www.biography.com/activist/susan-b-anthony#:~:text=She%20even%20took%20matters%20into,her%20fight%20for%20women's%20suffrage.>

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/23311886.2019.1681048>

<https://www.ourdocuments.gov/doc.php?flash=false doc=63>

