

# We Need Your Help!



## Women's Suffrage Grassroots Meeting (1918)

As you might be aware, many states have passed laws regarding women's suffrage. The time has long passed for women to have federal legislation so women in every state has the right to vote. The founders of this very great nation established a democracy as the governing regime of this nation, and we know women have a place in that democracy. However, one of the cornerstones of America's democracy is the right to vote. Voting is one of the most equitable ways to make one's voice heard on important issues that impact our society and our everyday lives. Given the exclusion of our right to vote, we need to devise a strategy to exert pressure on our federal officials, urging them to pass federal legislation so that all women have the right to vote. Therefore, please join us at this meeting and bring your ideas, as they will inform our next steps regarding how we will approach these critical issues for all women. We would like to have presentations on the following strategies:

1. Usage of media
2. Community (small and large scale) organizing
3. Civil disobedience
4. Militant strategies
5. Southern approach
6. Anti-suffragist(s)- (if needed due to class size)

### Action 1 (Independent: Research)

Before you and your group come to the meeting, we ask that you are well versed in the strategy that you want to present to the body of suffragists. Everyone in your group needs to have a thorough understanding of the strategy, so we ask that you all thoroughly review data and sources related to the topic. While this is a collaborative effort, each member of the group is expected to research and develop an understanding of strategy the group presents. First, each

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member of the group will be assigned a specific strategy and should find resources to support that strategy. We included a **resource guide (Scaffold 1)** to get you started. You will also complete the top portion of the **research document (Scaffold 2)** while you are conducting your research.

## Action 2 (Group: Sharing)

After you have become an expert on your assigned source, you will be responsible to explaining your source to other members of your group. While explaining your source to your fellow group members, everyone will be responsible for completing the **research document (Scaffold 2)**.

After learning about each strategy from each of your classmates, you will return to your original group. The remainder of this action will include sharing what you learned about the other strategies and for you to research any other needed sources. After your group has discussed all the sources, rank your top three most compelling sources. Any other research should be completed outside of class.

## Action 3 (Group: Preparation)

You will have time during the hearing to explain to the other suffragists the strategy you think the group should employ to secure women's voting rights. With that, we want your presentation to be as thorough as possible. Therefore, each group member will be assigned one of the roles listed below to ensure an efficient and persuasive overview of the strategy you are presenting: We have included the roles below, along with their respective duties, for your consideration:

1. **Speaker (Scaffold 3):** The speaker serves as the group's main spokesperson. This person will introduce your group to other suffragists attending the grassroots meeting. They will explain your strategy to the other suffragists, offer historical examples of its application, and explain its potential to achieve the objectives of women's suffrage.
2. **Graphic artist (2x) (Scaffold 4):** The graphic artist is the group's official designer. This person is responsible for designing and creating a propaganda poster for their group so that the other suffragists have a visual understanding of your assigned strategy. You should carefully design this poster, as your group will distribute it during its presentation.
3. **Digital reporter (Scaffold 5):** The digital reporter is responsible for leading the group through the most important details to best communicate the group's strategy through a digital platform. However, everyone should assist and agree with the digital presentation. This could take the form of a slide, a one-pager, or any other medium. Your digital report must also include a slogan that is decided upon by the group. The purpose of this report is to give the other suffragists a general idea of strategy to make the best decision at the grassroots meeting.
4. **Cross Examiner (Scaffold 6):** The cross examiner is responsible for developing questions that will be asked to the leader of the other groups during the grassroots meeting. The cross examiner might also be responsible for responding to questions from the other groups. Therefore, the cross examiner will assist the speaker during their group's presentation.

## Action 4 (Group: Presenting)

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After all groups have completed their research and prepared for the grassroots meeting, they will be required to deliver a presentation to the other women suffragists. During the presentation, the non-presenting women suffragists must **take notes (Scaffold 7)** to familiarize themselves with the other strategies presented at the grassroots meeting. The flow of the presentation should follow this or a very similar format:

1. The digital reporter should upload or distribute a concise overview of the group's strategy.
2. The speaker should provide the opening statements for the group and review the digital report.
3. The speaker should explain the group's propaganda poster.
4. The advocate will be asked questions by the grassroots meeting leader.

At the end of the meeting, we will take a hand vote to decide which strategy we will use to secure the right to vote. We will ask a couple of women to explain their voting decisions. Also, we are free to vote on other strategies than the ones they presented upon at the grassroots meeting.

## Action 5 (Individual: Personal Reflection)

Even after the vote, we encourage all of you to reflect on and document this very important moment in American history. Therefore, we encourage everyone to document this experience by drafting a **letter to a friend (Scaffold 8)** who was not present at the meeting to describe what happened. One day, this letter might be used as historical evidence to explain this significant event. We thank you for your participation!