

Name: _____ Date: _____



There was a lot of disagreement about women's suffrage. Read these different arguments and see if you can think of some counter-arguments to go in the missing spaces.

FOR women's suffrage	AGAINST women's suffrage
Women are just as intelligent and capable as men so should have the right to vote.	
	Women do not fight in wars and so should not have the right to vote like men do.
	Women need to stay in the home to take care of the children and household.
Women pay taxes so should be given a say in how their taxes are spent.	
Many women are more qualified to vote than many men who are able to vote, including criminals and lunatics.	
	Women are too sensitive and emotional to make decisions about politics.

Which do you think is the strongest argument for women's suffrage? Why?

Which do you think is the strongest argument against women's suffrage? Why?

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

The Daily News

Date:

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[illegible]

[illegible][illegible]

Women's Day: Hyde Park, London, 21st June 1908

Your task today is to write a newspaper article about the procession organised by the WSPU (Women's Social and Political Union) in June 1908. Use the information below to help you find out about the march, then write a newspaper article explaining:

- what happened •when it happened •where it happened •how it happened •why it happened

The Facts:

- It was organised by the WSPU to try and force the government into granting women suffrage.
- Prime Minister Asquith said that he would abandon his opposition to women's suffrage if it could be demonstrated that enough women wanted the vote.
- 250,000 people were expected but it is thought almost double this number turned up.
- Special trains were scheduled to bring women from all over the country.
- There were seven organised processions that all travelled into Hyde Park.
- There were twenty platforms from which speeches could be made in Hyde Park.
- There were more than 700 banners on display in white, green and purple (the colours of the suffragette movement).
- Key organisers included Emmeline, Christabel and Sylvia Pankhurst, and Flora Drummond.
- It was the largest political demonstration in history in Britain at the time.
- Despite the scale of the demonstration, Asquith refused to change his mind.



Extract from 'My Own Story' by Emmeline Pankhurst:

"What a day was this Sunday - clear, radiant, filled with golden sunshine! As I advanced, leading, with the venerable Mrs. Wolstenholme-Elmy, the first of the seven processions, it seemed to me that all London had turned out to witness our demonstration. And a goodly part of London followed the processions. When I mounted my platform in Hyde Park, and surveyed the mighty throngs that waited there and the endless crowds that were still pouring into the park from all directions, I was filled with amazement not unmixed with awe. Never had I imagined that so many people could be gathered together to share in a political demonstration. It was a gay and beautiful as well as an awe-inspiring spectacle, for the white gowns and flower-trimmed hats of the women, against the background of ancient trees, gave the park the appearance of a vast garden in full bloom. The bugles sounded, and the speakers at each of the twenty platforms began their addresses, which could not have heard by more than half of the audience.

Notwithstanding this, they remained to the end. At five o'clock the bugles sounded again, the speaking ceased, and the resolution calling upon the Government to bring in an official woman suffrage bill without delay was carried at every platform, often without a dissenting vote. Then, with a three-times-repeated cry of "Votes for Women!" from the assembled multitude, the great meeting dispersed."

Your task today is to imagine you are a member of the WSPU (Women's Social and Political Union) and write a speech that justifies your actions and persuades other people to support your cause and put pressure on the government to give women the right to vote.



About you:

- You are a member of the WSPU
- You believe that peaceful methods of demonstration won't be enough to force the government to give women the vote
- You have been arrested three times and are prepared to go to jail again if you need to
- You went on hunger strike in prison and were force-fed by the guards
- You have engaged in window-smashing and arson to gain attention for your cause

Other facts:

- The motto of the WSPU was 'Deeds not words'
- More moderate suffrage societies, such as the NUWSS, were against the militant strategies of the WSPU and saw their methods as harming the struggle for women's rights
- The 'Cat and Mouse Act' which was passed in 1913 stated that imprisoned women who were at risk of dying from hunger strike should be released but imprisoned again as soon as they were healthy enough
- The most famous members of the WSPU were Emmeline Pankhurst and her daughters Christabel and Sylvia.

Extracts from 'My Own Story' by Emmeline Pankhurst:

"Men make the moral code and they expect women to accept it. They have decided that it is entirely right and proper for men to fight for their liberties and their rights, but that it is not right and proper for women to fight for theirs. They have decided that for men to remain silently quiescent while tyrannical rulers impose bonds of slavery upon them is cowardly and dishonourable, but that for women to do that same thing is not cowardly and dishonourable, but merely respectable. Well, the Suffragettes absolutely repudiate that double standard of morals. If it is right for men to fight for their freedom, and God knows what the human race would be like to-day if men had not, since time began, fought for their freedom, then it is right for women to fight for their freedom and the freedom of the children they bear. On this declaration of faith the militant women of England rest their case."

"The militancy of men, through all the centuries, has drenched the world with blood, and for these deeds of horror and destruction men have been rewarded with monuments, with great songs and epics. The militancy of women has harmed no human life save the lives of those who fought the battle of righteousness. Time alone will reveal what reward will be allotted to the women."

"The contention of the old-fashioned suffragists, and of the politicians as well, has always been that an educated public opinion will ultimately give votes to women without any great force being exerted in behalf of the reform. We agree that public opinion must be educated, but we contend that even an educated public opinion is useless unless it is vigorously utilised. The keenest weapon is powerless unless it is courageously wielded. In the year 1906 there was an immensely large public opinion in favour of woman suffrage. But what good did that do the cause? We called upon the public for a great deal more than sympathy. We called upon it to demand of the Government to yield to public opinion and give women votes. And we declared that we would wage war, not only on all anti-suffrage forces, but on all neutral and non-active forces. Every man with a vote was considered a foe to woman suffrage unless he was prepared to be actively a friend."

1832

Clues:

- Mary Smith
- Parliament
- Petition
- Great Reform Act

1866

Clues:

- John Stuart Mill
- Petition
- House of Commons

1867

Clues:

- London Society for Women's Suffrage
- Kensington Society

1881

Clues:

- Isle of Man
- Women's vote
- Tynwald

1893

Clues:

- New Zealand
- Women's vote

1897

Clues:

- NUWSS
- Millicent Fawcett
- Peaceful protests

1903

Clues:

- WSPU
- Emmeline Pankhurst
- Daily Mail

1905

Clues:

- Christabel Pankhurst
- Annie Kenney
- Arrests
- Deeds not words

1907

Clues:

- Mud march
- Philippa Strachey
- NUWSS

1908

Clues:

- Hyde Park
- Women's Sunday
- Asquith

1909

Clues:

- Hunger strikes
- Marion Wallace Dunlop
- Holloway

1910

Clues:

- Black Friday
- Asquith
- Conciliation Bill

1912

Clues:

- Window smashing
- Emmeline Pethick-Lawrence
- Arrests

1913

Clues:

- Emily Davison
- Epsom
- Martyr

1914

Clues:

- WWI
- Suffragette prisoners
- War effort

Date:

Date:

Date:

Date:
