Voting Rights Projects

Ms. Dowdy
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About the Projects

RESEARCH

Students spent 4 weeks researching the history of voting rights in the United States.

Weeks 1-2 were a time for students to get a broad overview of the timeline of voting rights in the US, key terminology, and key events.

Weeks 3-4 were spent focusing on one movement: Women's suffrage or Civil Rights (VRA of 1965). Students made decisions at major turning points and analyzed primary and secondary sources for tactics that were used to gain the right to vote and to restrict voting rights.

PROJECTS

Students created a project that answered one or more of the following questions:

1. How did women or African Americans win the right to vote?
2. Why did the vote not guarantee power, protection and change for women or African Americans?
3. What current fights remain?

Students then learned specific techniques for creating an artistic project - either a visual project, a video, or a poem/spoken word - from local experts in each field. Experts were connected with students through Southend Stories. Students then applied these skills to their final product.
1st Period
Dowdy
2nd Period
Dowdy
3rd Period
Lee
Mia
Isa - “Ram It Down”

“don’t ram it down his throat” they said
When the suffragists stood outside the president’s door
Demanding that they get a say in who rules the world
“don’t ram it down his throat”
When they were beaten in the street
The police arresting the hurt and ignoring the men smashing in women’s skulls right in front of them
“don’t ram it down his throat”
When they had plastic tubes stuffed down their gullets
To force food into their stomachs after they told the prison guard they weren’t going to eat
don’t ram it down his throat”
The way to the vote
Is to
Wait

For the war
For sickness
For the next war
Until the human race rots away and a new species takes its place
So they can wait
Because if we wait
Then the president will find us favorable
And he can give us a smile and a wave
Before he moves on to solving the next crisis
That’s why we don’t ram it down his throat
But when you’re choking your first priority is to breathe again
So women got the vote
And now we teach our students about the ones who won it

The way to the vote

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The ones like Susan B Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton
Who told the picketers to shut up and be more ladylike
Who tried to deny black men the right to vote because they thought they were more entitled to it
Who sat back while others did the work all the while saying
“don’t ram it down his throat”

And now
When we dress how we want
When we stand up for ourselves
When we be who we are
What do they say?
“don’t ram it down my throat”
Because it bugs them
Because they like us oppressed
Because nothing ever changes unless it’s rammed down someone’s throat
Susan B. Anthony
Graceful yet disciplined
A beacon in the fog,
Never resting
Powered by the flame of Equality
Undeterred by the Illusion of subservience
But the fog decided that It “wasn’t her turn yet”
And still, she remained Tall, proud, defiant
How inconvenient

Alice Paul
A true fighter
Persistent in the face of crisis
Fighting battles not with guns
But with pickets
Never compromising on Basic decency
How inconvenient

Shirley Chisholm
Compelling, inspirational
A green island in a vast sea
The sun, peering through
The fog
The warmth seeping in
The chilling breeze now cool
But the fog was still there
Even if the sun was
Inconvenient
Luna

“After voting rights are won, what fights remain?”

They want nothing more than to shut us down,
We fight for our place in politics.
They want to control our finances,
We want financial independence.
They think we have no place in business,
We want to be our own bosses.

They get asked about their jobs,
We get asked about our bodies.
They get paid thousands more,
We work just as hard.
They ask, “What more do you want?”
We want equality for all women.
They think the work here is done,
We have only scratched the surface.
2nd Period
Morean/ Holmgren
Women’s Rights
1900’s – 2000’s
“The fight for suffrage is the fight for equality and it isn’t over”
Allie and Ani

Donald Trump: Billy Bush says infamous Access Hollywood 'grab them by the p***y' tape is real

Posted Sun 3 Dec 2017 at 9:56pm, updated Sun 3 Dec 2017 at 10:33pm

WATCH
1m
4th Period
Morean/ Holm gren
In the 1880s women worked
In the 1880s they were irked
That some of their friends
Especially the men
Women’s suffrage they had shirked

Some women decided to stay
Said it was the black people’s day
But others refused
Demanded their dues
This message they tried to convey

We’ll have Universal suffrage or none
If we don’t get to vote then we’re done
The slaves disagreed
Said they had more need
They’re killing us with their shotguns

So the NWSA
And the AWSA
One to help black people
One to help
Were formed from great disarray

1916, there’s been a world war
Women are fighting, same as before
Perhaps some new tactics
Recruit some “fanatics”
Will finally open the door

Picket the whitehouse and march in the streets
Anger policemen and stand in the sleet
Get arrested and protest it
Stay in jail and be molested

Get force fed when you refuse to eat
But it attracts attention in the press
To distance themselves from the mess
The women were released
Picketing did not cease
And so it was called a success

By 1919 women hatched a scheme
To pass an amendment (of this they were keen)
15 whole states, of some assort
Quite a few men had lent their support
Everyone watched with eyes agleam

Came in the votes from the senate and house
Women put pressure to vote on their spouse
Then came the word - the amendment had passed!
Tears of relief like they’d been tear gassed
These word ring true: Better a b*** than a mouse

Tears of relief like they’d been tear gassed
These word ring true: Better a b*** than a mouse
The authors note: Throughout this unit we have learned about how African Americans were disenfranchised and rejected the right to vote in the 1960s. They were met with violence and police brutality, but they never stopped fighting to receive their voting rights. They marched and protested demanding to receive equal rights even if it meant that they were attacked and threatened by their oppressors. An example of the organized marches was the “March from Selma,” where thousands of people gathered to march from Selma to Montgomery, which resulted in moments being captured on TV of the protesters being brutally attacked and injured by police. The images that I have put together display how African Americans still experience police brutality and discrimination in the United States. By looking at the images, a person would not automatically know which images are from the past and present (maybe the color of the image, but it’s hard to tell apart). This demonstrates that the only things that have really changed are the way people are dressed and the signs that they are holding. Even though there is still inequality in America, it is because of those many people that protested and fought, so that African Americans could have rights that we have our rights today. In the past posters might say “One Man, One Vote,” “We Demand the Right to Vote Everywhere,” “Stop brutality in Alabama,” and “Negroes are Americans too, protect them.” Now with the same message, we see signs like “Black Lives Matter,” “Say her/his name,” “No Justice, No Peace,” “White Silence is Violence,” and “The Color of Our Skin is Not a Weapon.” The difference is only the time period; African Americans are still not treated equal in this country. Although, African American experience this reality, people have always come together to protest, march, and use their voices to demand equal rights for African Americans! It was the 1960s then and now it’s 2020, but WE’LL KEEP ON MARCHING UNTIL WE ALL RECEIVE EQUAL RIGHTS AND UNTIL WE ARE ALL TREATED WITH DEGNITY!~
Eden - “We Will Keep On Marching”
Hope

Photography Set #1

Photography Set #2

Photography Set #3