Women’s Rights DBQ

Directions: Carefully examine each of the following documents. After analyzing each document, answer the accompanying questions. (The date of each document has been included for you—think about how women’s rights changed over time.)

**Document 1 (1874):**

![Document Image](http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/awhhtml/awlaw3/images/anthony.gif)

**Document 1 Questions:**

What is the subject of the document?

How might the subject of the document support or hinder women’s rights?

What do you believe was the outcome of the trial?
Some Reasons
Why We Oppose Votes for Women

Because the basis of government is force—its stability rests upon its physical power to enforce its laws; therefore it is inexpedient to give the vote to women. Immunity from service in executing the law would make most women irresponsible voters.

Because the suffrage is not a question of right or of justice, but of policy and expediency; and if there is no question of right or of justice, there is no case for woman suffrage.

Because it is the Demand of a Minority of Women, and the Majority of Women Protest Against It.

Because it means simply doubling the vote, and especially the undesirable and corrupt vote of our large cities.

Because the great advance of women in the last century—moral, intellectual and economic—has been made without the vote; which goes to prove that it is not needed for their further advancement along the same lines.

Because women now stand outside of politics, and therefore are free to appeal to any party in matters of education, charity and reform.

Because the ballot has not proved a cure-all for existing evils with men, and we have no reason to assume that it would be more effective with women.

Because the woman suffrage movement is a backward step in the progress of civilization, in that it seeks to efface natural differentiation of function, and to produce identity, instead of division of labor.

Because in Colorado after a test of seventeen years the results show no gain in public and political morals over male suffrage States, and the necessary increase in the cost of elections which is already a huge burden upon the taxpayer, is unjustified.

Because our present duties fill up the whole measure of our time and ability, and are such as none but ourselves can perform. Our appreciation of their importance requires us to protest against all efforts to infringe upon our rights by imposing upon us those obligations which cannot be separated from suffrage, but which, as we think, cannot be performed by us without the sacrifice of the highest interests of our families and of society.

Because it is our fathers, brothers, husbands, and sons who represent us at the ballot-box. Our fathers and brothers are our choice, and one with us; our sons are what WE MAKE THEM. We are content that they represent us in the corn-field, on the battle-field, and at the ballot-box, and we THEM in the school-room, at the fireside, and at the cradle, believing our representation even at the ballot-box to be thus more full and impartial than it would be were the views of the few who wish suffrage adopted, contrary to the judgment of the many.

We do, therefore, respectfully protest against the proposed Amendment to establish “woman suffrage” in our State. We believe that political equality will deprive us of special privileges hitherto accorded to us by law.

Our association has been formed for the purpose of conducting a purely educational campaign. If you are in sympathy with this aim and believe as we do in the righteousness of our cause, will you not send your name to us and pass our appeal on to some one else?

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OPPOSED TO WOMAN SUFFRAGE,
35 West 39th St., New York City.

http://memory.loc.gov/rbc/rbpe/rbpe13/rbpe130/1300130c/001dq.gif

Document 2 Questions:

Who do you believe wrote this document—men or women? ______________

What do the authors believe is the role of women? ________________________________________________________________
Document 3 (1896):

http://memory.loc.gov/service/pnp/cph/3a10000/3a13000/3a13200/3a13267r.jpg

Document 3 Questions:

Who is depicted in the center of the cartoon? ________________________________________

Why is this person surrounded by women? ________________________________________

What are the names of the two women sitting on either side of the man? Why do you think that the artist chose these two women? ________________________________________
Educational materials were developed through the Teaching American History in Anne Arundel County Program, a partnership between the Anne Arundel County Public School System and the Center for History Education at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

**Document 4 (1909):**

![Cartoon Image](http://memory.loc.gov/service/pnp/cph/3a50000/3a51000/3a51800/3a51845r.jpg)

**Document 4 Question:**

How does the cartoon portray the shift in society as a result of women’s suffrage?

______________________________________________________________________________  
______________________________________________________________________________  
______________________________________________________________________________
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**Document 5 (1911)?:**

![Image of Headquarters of the National Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage](http://memory.loc.gov/service/pnp/cph/3a20000/3a26000/3a26200/3a26270r.jpg)

**Document 5 Questions:**

Who is standing outside of the Headquarters?

What do these people demonstrate about society?
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Document 6 (1912):

Read the banner behind the women. For what rights are they marching?

______________________________________________________________________________

Why might it be significant that a baby and a young girl are participating in the march?

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________
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Document 7 (1912):

VOTES FOR WOMEN!
THE WOMAN'S REASON.

BECAUSE
women must obey the laws just as men do,
They should vote equally with men.

BECAUSE
women pay taxes just as men do, thus supporting the government,
They should vote equally with men.

BECAUSE
women suffer from bad government just as men do,
They should vote equally with men.

BECAUSE
mothers want to make their children's surroundings better,
They should vote equally with men.

BECAUSE
over 5,000,000 women in the United States are wage workers and their health and that of our future citizens are often endangered by evil working conditions that can only be remedied by legislation,
They should vote equally with men.

BECAUSE
women of leisure who attempt to serve the public welfare should be able to support their advice by their votes,
They should vote equally with men.

BECAUSE
busy housemothers and professional women cannot give such public service, and can only serve the state by the same means used by the busy man—namely, by casting a ballot,
They should vote equally with men.

BECAUSE
women need to be trained to a higher sense of social and civic responsibility, and such sense develops by use,
They should vote equally with men.

BECAUSE
women are consumers, and consumers need fuller representation in politics,
They should vote equally with men.

BECAUSE
women are citizens of a government of the people, by the people, and for the people, and 
women are people.
They should vote equally with men.

EQUAL SUFFRAGE FOR MEN AND WOMEN.

WOMEN Need It.
MEN Need It.
The STATE Needs It.

WHY?

Women Ought To GIVE Their Help.
Men Ought To HAVE Their Help.
The State Ought To USE Their Help.

National American Woman Suffrage Association
Headquarters: 505 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK

http://memory.loc.gov/rbc/rbpe/rbpe132/13200400/001dq.gif

Document 7 Questions:

Why are the women requesting the right to vote? Provide at least 3 reasons.
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Does their argument seem reasonable?

Document 8 (1917):

http://memory.loc.gov/service/pnp/cph/3a30000/3a32000/3a32300/3a32338r.jpg

Document 8 Questions:

Based on what you can tell from the picture and picket signs, where are the women located?

What are the women wearing on their sashes? Are these words significant? Why or why not?
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