

Sentiments and Resolutions Lesson

<https://www.nps.gov/teachers/classrooms/sentiments-and-resolutions.htm>

Essential Question

What can be inferred about the status of women in the 1840's from the Sentiments included in the Declaration of Sentiments?

Objective

- Students will understand the differences between the Declaration of Independence and the Declaration of Sentiments
- Students will be able to explain the grievances and resolutions in the Declaration of Sentiments
- Student will demonstrate ability to defend a position informed by historical material

Preparation

Download Lesson Plan, Declaration of Sentiment, Declaration of Independence, and Group Work Sheets.

Materials

Procedure

1. Teacher introduces the Seneca Falls 1848 Convention. The Park's Revolutionary Roots video (8 minutes) can be used for this: <https://youtu.be/VupJgrixMmY>
2. Students are grouped in threes.
3. Teacher hands out copies of the Declaration of Independence, Declaration of Sentiments and Resolutions, and the group recording sheet to each group.
4. Teacher asks students to work together, examine each document and complete the group recording sheet to be prepared for class discussion.

5. Teacher moves group to group helping students with wording as each group discusses and responds to questions.

6. Class discussion asking students to explain and react to the sentiments and resolutions in the document.

7. Option for further conversation with reflection questions:

- If you were a supporter of women's rights in 1848, what would be the most difficult part of taking action?
- There were people at the time who supported women's rights privately but didn't speak out. Why do you think that is? What pressures do you think they felt?
- Do you think it's more important to speak up publicly or work quietly behind the scenes for change? Why?

Enrichment Activity

Each student is asked to write a response to the follow prompt: Choose one Sentiment and one Resolution from the Declaration of Sentiments (1848). Explain how the Resolution responds to the issue raised in the Sentiment. Then, describe how this issue changed over time in U.S. history. Use specific historical examples to support your answer.

Evaluation:

- Students participation during the groupwork
- Students participation during class discussion
- Students responses to assessment writing question

Contact Information

Email us about this lesson plan at worl_education@nps.gov