



Group Work: Women's Suffrage in Great Britain & USA

Instructions

- Divide into **6 groups**.
- Each group tackles one **point** below.
- Use **sources, timelines, and critical thinking** to prepare.
- At the end, each group gives a **mini-presentation (3–4 minutes)** with evidence, comparisons, and reflection.

Group 1 – Political Context & Resistance

- Investigate the political parties and institutions that resisted women's suffrage in each country.
- Why did politicians fear giving women the vote?
- Compare how resistance was eventually overcome in Britain vs. the USA.
- **Presentation challenge:** Show how political resistance shaped the timeline of reforms.

Group 2 – Economic Arguments

- Research economic arguments used *for* and *against* women's suffrage.
- How did women's role in the workforce (especially during WWI) strengthen their claim to voting rights?
- Compare Britain's industrial economy with the USA's more diverse economy.
- **Presentation challenge:** Create a short "economic case" speech as if you were a suffragist in 1918.

Group 3 – Strategies & Media

- Analyze how suffragists/suffragettes in Britain and suffragists in the USA used newspapers, posters, and public demonstrations.
- Compare militant tactics (e.g. hunger strikes in Britain) with radical protests (e.g. White House pickets in the USA).
- **Presentation challenge:** Show two contrasting campaign posters (or describe them) and explain their impact.

Group 4 – Social & Cultural Dimensions



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- How did class, race, and social background affect women's access to the vote?
- Britain: property qualifications until 1928.
- USA: barriers for women of color even after 1920 (Jim Crow laws, literacy tests).
- **Presentation challenge:** Explain how suffrage was not equally accessible to all women.

Group 5 – Legal Pathways

- Britain: gradual parliamentary acts (1918, 1928).
- USA: constitutional amendment (1920).
- Compare the legal processes: parliamentary reform vs. constitutional change.
- **Presentation challenge:** Debate which legal pathway was more democratic and why.

Group 6 – Legacy & Modern Impact

- How did women's suffrage influence later movements (civil rights, feminism, equality laws)?
- Compare Britain's later reforms (e.g. equal pay acts) with the USA's civil rights and feminist waves.
- **Presentation challenge:** Connect suffrage history to one modern equality issue (e.g. gender pay gap, representation in politics).