

How did you choose your topic and how does it relate to the annual theme?

When we first started exploring turning points in history, we all started to become interested in women's rights and the 19th amendment. When we found out that Wisconsin was the first state to ratify the 19th amendment, we thought that it would be the perfect topic for our project. We started to dig deeper into the topic and discovered a woman named Theodora Youmans and we became very interested in her story. We learned that she was the president of the Wisconsin Women's Suffrage Association, and a part of many other groups when Wisconsin ratified the 19th amendment on June 10, 1919.

How did you conduct your research?

We conducted most of our research through qualified online websites such as archives.gov and library.wisc.edu. In these websites, we found a ton of great background information such as Theodora Youmans's childhood, what groups she was involved with, and other information such as her being one of Wisconsin's first female journalists. We took all of this information and put it into a shared Google Document. We also went to the UW Green Bay Archives where we found some fascinating information and primary sources. We found a lot of letters that Theodora Youmans wrote to people, important documents from the Wisconsin Women's Suffrage Association, and other groups that she was a part of. We put all of this information into a shared Google Drive folder.

How did you create your project?

We decided to create a website because we thought it would be the best way to display our information because of the ability to show multiple formats. Although at first, we had a bit of trouble trying to build and create the website, we persevered and watched many help videos, so we now have a complete website. We divided up the work and each completed our parts of the project. We organized all of our work into shared folders and documents.

What is your historical argument?

Theodora Youmans and the suffrage groups she was a part of was a turning point in history because it gave women the right to vote. Youmans' contributions from the women's suffrage groups she was a part of, newspapers she wrote for, and public appearances she gave helped create a turning point in Wisconsin and United States history by allowing it to become the first state to ratify the 19th amendment.

In what ways is your topic significant in history?

Theodora Youmans and the groups she was a part of were significant in U.S. history because it influenced women getting the right to vote. This was really important to Youmans and others like her because they believed the United States was not a true democracy unless everyone was represented. This includes women. If it weren't for women like Theodora Youmans, women would not be able to vote or have the lives that they have now.