

## Wyoming Female Suffrage Bill

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**How did we choose our topic and how does it relate to the annual theme?**

From the very beginning, we knew that we were interested in researching and creating an NHD project related to women's rights, so when our teacher told us about how Wyoming became the first territory and state to give women full suffrage, we were ecstatic and chose it without delay. Our topic relates to the theme "Frontiers in History" because before the suffrage law, women had very few rights, but when the law passed they gained the right to vote, run for and hold public office, own and inherit property, and have guardianship of minor children. It changed political frontiers and social frontiers forever, as well as influenced other states to give full suffrage to women.

**How did we conduct our research?**

We would focus on one thing we wanted to research first, such as the people involved or where the first meeting was held, and research it until we felt we had the information we needed and then moved on to the following research topic. We then compiled our research and went through everything to see what different sources agreed with and what different sources disagreed with so we could get a good idea of the different perspectives in the story that we are trying to tell.

**How did we create our project?**

We first did our practice website where we would compile our best and most fitting photos and our research and started making the practice website until we thought it was good. Then we began moving on to the final NHD website by putting all the information/pictures we had put on the practice website and changing the website until we thought it was perfect. After the Regional competition, we took the feedback and altered our website by adding facts. We also changed the theme colors of our website to purple, white, and yellow to represent the woman suffrage flag colors.

**What is our historical argument?**

The female suffrage bill became a reality when Wyoming began losing population as the gold mines began to be decommissioned, Wyoming was desperate to get more people to move there so they could become a state. Once Esther Morris introduced the idea of female suffrage, William Bright got the idea that not only would this bill improve how many rights women have, but it would also bring more people to move here with a promise of full suffrage, something that no other state or territory provided at the time.

**How is our topic significant in history?**

In the long run, this law put women in the United States on the path to gaining their political freedom, their right to hold office, and their right to vote equally as a man does. From this one monumental law, women have gained quite a few rights, and the influence from the Female Suffrage Law is still influencing women's rights today as women slowly gain more rights in their daily lives.