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The Nineteenth Amendment

Women Won the Right to Vote

'Why voting counts'

Voting is a course of action that must be taken seriously by all Americans. It allows us to choose electable leaders for our country, decide on tax propositions, or even choose which kind of ice cream should be added to your local parlor. Voting started during the 1900's, but only affluent men who owned property could do so. Black male slaves were the next to be able to vote. In 1870, the constitution passed the 15th amendment, allowing all colored male men to vote. According to the passage, "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude." (Amendment 15 article 1, United States Constitution). Women then finally became eligible to vote in the year 1920, when congress passed another amendment. The article states, "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex." (Amendment 19 article 1, United States Constitution).

Over time, some citizens of the United States took a lackadaisical attitude toward this privilege of voting. One motive for these actions could be that it's too much work for one to register and vote. A Pew Research Center study showed that 51 million people, (almost one-in-four), able to vote do not register. (Bethany Brookshire, 5). Often, many college students do not vote simply because they did not know how to. A statistic shows that only about 38-44% of 18-24 year olds actually vote. (CNBC, 4). Not only do they just not know how to vote, but some think that their vote will not count towards anything, and that it would be just a waste of time putting out their opinion on their government. (CNBC, 8). Other reasons for not voting could be apathy or no preference for either the Republican or

Democratic party. Smaller parties such as the green or Libertarians don't have the resources, funding or votes to place a candidate. (Bethany Brookshire, 12). These are some of the reasons as to why many opt out of voting.

Voting is not a complicated procedure. Different states in America have different rules and qualifications for someone to vote. For example, in California citizens must be 18 years and older to vote, but some states such as Oregon must be 16 or older. California has a few other stipulations, such as being an American citizen or not currently residing in a penitentiary. After a citizen has become qualified, the next step is to sign up for an online voter registration or visit their local county elections office. (California Secretary of State).

Voting allows ourselves to share our opinion within our government. It puts a foundation down for future generations. Our education, economy, and healthcare all depend on it. Some people in other countries or regions don't get the opportunity to be a part of a democracy like ours in America; which is why we should value it. For example, In Africa, many people have to walk several kilometers to register and vote. (Aron Sharockman). No doubt about it, we have it easier than most people in other countries.

Changing someone's opinion isn't an easy job, but that's where good advertising and education of a candidate or position comes in. Encouraging many in the United States to vote should start in their early years of school. I propose that all middle students here in America should have a seperate class just for talking about the importance and significance of voting. The ability to cast a vote allows us to create input regarding our future and livelihood. It affects our social and cultural significance.

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