

Women's Suffrage

Creating Suffragette Paraphernalia

What is paraphernalia? It is the group of things that someone needs for a particular activity. In this case, suffragette paraphernalia is the array of objects that suffragettes used to convince people to give women the right to vote. This included banners, sashes, buttons, playing cards, postcards, and other household objects like tea sets, paper cups, and clothespins.



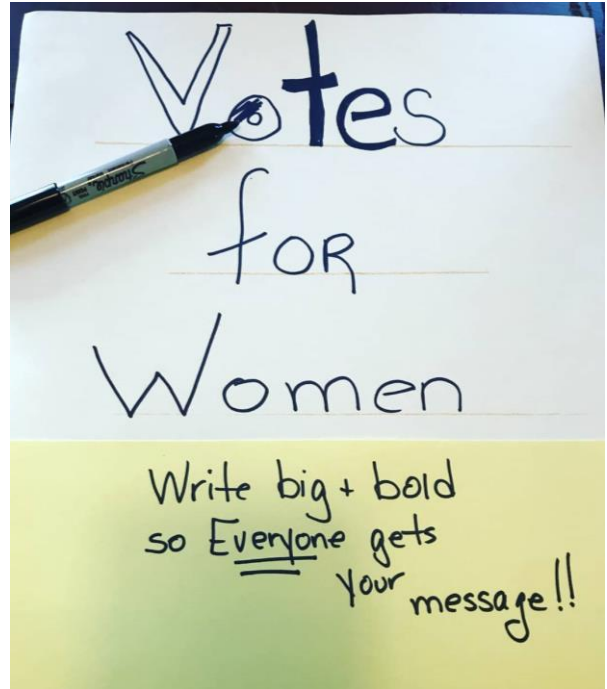
Suffragists in parade, ca. 1910-1915. Library of Congress.

Project 1: Create a Banner

Duration: 30 minutes

Materials:

- Large piece of paper, cardboard, or old sheet or blanket
- Paint, markers, crayons, or colored pencils
- A cause to fight for!



Instructions:

1. Decide what you want to be an activist for and create a slogan.

Suffragettes used some of these slogans:

“Help us to win the vote.”

“Votes for Women!”

“Votes for US when WE are women”

“Why not let mother vote.”

“Equality for Women”

2. Create large outlines for your letters. Remember, people need to see your banner from far away.
3. Color in your letters.
4. Add other images that can benefit your cause.
5. Send your masterpiece to heather@mattmuseum.org. We might even share it on social media with our followers!

Project 2: Create a Button

Duration: 30 minutes

Materials:

- Thick paper like on a cereal box or shoebox
- Paint, markers, crayons, or colored pencils

Instructions:

1. Reuse your slogan from project #1 or create a new slogan.
2. Use the templates on the next page to cut a shape out of your cardboard.
3. Write your slogan and decorate with colors and patterns that are related to your slogan.
4. Put the button on your shirt with a pin, tape, or a paper clip.
5. Send your masterpiece to heather@mattmuseum.org.

