

Modernized Suffrage Speech: Voices of American Women

The process:

- 1) Select one of the speeches by early women activists that is included in our course readings.
- 2) Read it through several times. Research the background of the speech – know why it was given and where.
- 3) *Rewrite the speech for a modern audience*: update the language and shorten the length. You may need to choose a particular portion of the speech to focus on, depending on its original length and how you choose to modernize it.

You might also find a more contemporary style of presentation (ex., rap, Power Point, YouTube video, oral poetry), and/or apply the message of the speech to a current issue (ex: marriage laws => same sex marriage, or, slavery => child labor, or subjugation of women => subjugation of the environment, etc).

Consider the types of evidence offered. For example, biblical allusions were common because it was assumed the audience was familiar with bible stories. What would be a more contemporary way of relating to an audience?

You may also need to make pronoun adjustments according to the gender identity of the original speaker versus your own (ex. if you are a man delivering a speech originally made by a woman).

- 4) Practice your new and improved speech.
- 5) Present your speech to the class. May be delivered extemporaneously or from manuscript. You will have a **maximum of 7minutes**.

This is not an oral report about the speech. It is also not a summary of the speech. It is an updated/modernize/simplified version of the speech. You should deliver it in the first person ("I" statements, not "she said" statements)

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Grading Considerations:	
5 pts: Fair representation of original - message is clear & reflects understanding of original speech	
5 pts: Creative (unique presentation and/or good use of current issue to update the speech)	
5 pts: Language is appropriate for a modern audience	
5 pts: Well organized	
5 pts: Quality delivery, both verbal and nonverbal	
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