



SCHOOL VIOLENCE PREVENTION DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM

HANDOUT 2

SUSAN B. ANTHONY

1820–1906



Printable Biography

<http://www.encyclopedia.com/printable.aspx?id=1E1:AnthonyS&topicid=1450>

Quotes

It was we, the people; not we, the white male citizens; nor yet we, the male citizens; but we, the whole people, who formed the Union. And we formed it, not to give the blessings of liberty, but to secure them; not to the half of ourselves and the half of our posterity, but to the whole people—women as well as men. And it is a downright mockery to talk to women of their enjoyment of the blessings of liberty while they are denied the use of the only means of securing them provided by this democratic-republican government—the ballot.

—Speech by Susan B. Anthony, 1873

Action

In 1872, when women in the United States were still decades away from securing the right to vote, Susan B. Anthony cast a ballot in the presidential election. She was arrested, tried, and sentenced to a fine of one hundred dollars, which she refused to pay. At trial, she argued that she was entitled to vote in federal elections under the Fourteenth Amendment, which guaranteed the privileges of citizenship to “all persons born or naturalized in the United States.” After hearing all of the arguments in the case, the judge took out a piece of paper and read a prepared opinion that stated: “The Fourteenth Amendment gives no right to a woman to vote, and the voting by Miss Anthony was in violation of the law.” Susan B. Anthony was outraged by the manner in which the trial was conducted and she sought to use it to influence public opinion by distributing thousands of copies of the trial transcript.

Additional Links

<http://www.susanbanthonyhouse.org/>

<http://www.biography.com/articles/Susan-Anthony-9186331>

<http://www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/anthony/sbaaccount.html>