Women in Printing

Grade Levels: 9-12

Subject Areas: Journalism, Newspaper, Creative Writing, English, World & U.S. History, Social Studies, and Humanities

Learning Objectives
• The history of journalism and newspaper publishing in early America, especially cons
• The history of newspaper journalism in modern United States
• Changes in the newspaper front page layout and advertisement design

Students will learn to:
• Use primary and secondary sources, including original artifacts, to discuss the importance of word choice
• Identify the history and development of American journalism through people and events
• Demonstrate an understanding of the different forms of media and the different types of journalistic writing and diction

Lesson Details
1. Pre-arrival lesson options: vocabulary activity and crossword
2. Main lesson:
   • Distribute the women in the world of printing to the students and go over the important figures and actions of each woman.
   • Enrichment activity: Where would they be today?: Activity to think about what current events and groups any of the women would be part of/and or draw a political.
   • After museum visit, students will interview from one of the women’s perspectives, and then write a persuasion argument piece on question of choice relating to women’s suffrage or current event.

Vocabulary words associated with lesson:
abolitionists, aristocracy, denunciation, dissension, domestic, editor, freedom of speech, primary source, printer, printing press, propaganda, secondary, source, suffrage, typesetter, typewriter

Applicable TEKS*

As a courtesy, these items are complimentary from The Printing Museum, and we kindly ask that these lessons aren’t distributed to schools and classes that are not coordinating a lesson or trip with The Printing Museum. Thank you.

*TEKS as of July 2021.
For each section write the vocabulary word in the banner, define it or, use the word in a sentence on the lined portion. Then draw a picture of the meaning in the frame provided.
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Word Search

Use the correct vocabulary word for each definition.

**Down**

1. a person who typesets text
2. a person who favors the abolition of a practice or institution, especially capital punishment or (formerly) slavery.
3. a machine with keys for producing alphabetical characters, numerals, and typographical symbols one at a time on paper inserted around a roller
4. disagreement that leads to discord
5. the right to vote in political elections
6. a person whose job or business is commercial printing
7. of speech, the right to express any opinions without censorship or restraint
8. public condemnation of someone or something

**Across**

4. source, works that analyze, assess, or interpret a historical event era or phenomenon
10. relating to the running of a home or to family relations
11. the highest class in certain societies, especially those holding hereditary titles or offices
12. press, a mechanical device for applying pressure to an inked surface resting upon a print medium, thereby transferring the ink
13. information, especially of a biased or misleading nature, used to promote or publicize a particular political cause or point of view
14. a first-hand or contemporary account of an event or topic
15. a person who is in charge of and determines the final content of a text, particularly a newspaper or magazine
Below are important women in history and what they accomplished in their lifetime. Read each one carefully to fully complete the activities that follow.

**Susan B. Anthony (1820–1906)**

Susan B. Anthony wouldn’t have had the success of women’s suffrage if it weren’t for her involvement with print media. While delivering speeches for rights of labor and equality for women, together with Elizabeth Cady Stanton, they co-founded the American Equal Rights Association and became editors of *The Revolution*, which helped spread thoughts and ideas of equality and rights for women.

**Mary Shadd Cary (1823–1893)**

Born in Delaware, Mary Shadd Cary was an American-Canadian abolitionist, journalist, writer and lawyer. After immigrating to Canada, she became the first female publisher in Canada and the first African American female publisher in North America. She also founded the first African American female newspaper editor by starting the *Provincial Freeman*, which focused on anti-slavery issues.

**Jovita Idár (1885–1946)**

A native Texan from Laredo, Texas, Jovita Idár played a key role in Mexican-American rights through journalism and political activism. With her family in 1911, she helped form the First Mexican Congress, and she founded *La Liga Feminal Mexicaista* to support women’s rights. She helped by writing for her father’s newspaper *La Cronica* to advocate these rights.

**Elizabeth Jordan (1865–1947)**

Originally from Wisconsin, Elizabeth Jordan was a suffragist, journalist, author, and publisher/patron of other female authors. She started her journalistic career as an editor at *Peck’s Sun*, while contributing to *St. Paul Globe* and *Chicago Tribune*. She was a dedicated worker for her interest in uncovering real news, covering major trials like the Lizzie Borden trial. One of her key roles was becoming the editor of *Harper’s Bazaar*.

**Frances Ellen Watkins Harper (1825–1911)**

Frances Ellen Watkins Harper was an abolitionist, suffragist, author, poet and teacher born free in Baltimore. Watkins was one of the first African American women published in America, and she was the first female teacher at Union Seminary. One of her political and career highlights is that she co-founded the National Association of Colored Women with Ida Wells-Barnett, Harriet Tubman and others in 1896.
Below are important women in history and what they accomplished in their lifetime. Read each one carefully to fully complete the activities that follow.

**Ethel Payne (1911-1991)**

Ethel Payne is widely and colloquially titled ‘First Lady of the Black Press’ because of her persistence in being a veteran, civil rights activist, and journalist. She started writing for *The Chicago Defender* from 1951-1978 documenting stories that were not discussed on a national level. Payne was also the first African American woman to appear on a national network.

**Elizabeth Cady Stanton (1815-1902)**

Together with Susan B. Anthony, Stanton was at the forefront of the women’s rights and suffrage movements. Stanton authored “The Declaration of Sentiments,” which added the word ‘woman’ to *The Declaration of Independence* to include women. She coined many speeches and wrote many articles and books, and created the National Woman Suffrage Association.

**Ida Tarbell (1857-1944)**

Born in Pennsylvania, Ida Tarbell was an American journalist, lecturer, and chronicler of the American industry. Along with others, she was among a group that helped develop investigative journalism. Her most well-known work was *The History of the Standard Oil Company*, which led to discover violations of the company. She published her autobiography in *All in the Day’s Work* in 1939.

**Ida B. Wells (1862-1931)**

Ida B. Wells was a prominent activist, journalist and researcher born into slavery. After the Civil War, she became politically active in the Reconstruction era politics, become the co-founder of National Association of Colored Women’s Club. Wrote during the suffragist movement, demanding the simultaneous advocacy of black women’s rights. Self-published an anti-lynching expose/pamphlet.

**Phillis Wheatley (1753-1784)**

Spending most of her life in slavery, Phillis Wheatley was one of the first African American women published in America and the second woman after Anne Bradstreet. Wheatley’s poems and writing styles payed tribute to her African roots. Her first collection of poems, *Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral* was the first book written by a black woman in America. She was emancipated shortly after and continued writing on freedom and liberty.
Where Would They Be Today? Name: _____________________________

While most of these women made groundbreaking changes for women’s rights, there are still many activist groups for many different rights today. Choose two of the women from the previous pages and give them a modern profile update.

1. Create a unique and creative username/handle for the person of your choosing adding details to their profile from the small biographies in the previous handout.
2. Add a short bio with details that match their history.
3. Lastly, create a thread of tweets of support for modern-day rights, beliefs, or groups that your selected person would support in today’s social media age. Get as creative as you want!
One important aspect of journalism is interviewing important figures in order to establish the necessary facts and perspectives for a story. Using the interview questions provided below, imagine how a significant woman in printing would respond to these questions. You will interview one of the female investigative journalists you learned about, such as Ida Tarbell or Susan B. Anthony. In order to answer these questions from the perspective of your interviewee, please reference the Women in Print discussion sections and your museum visit, or research your icon. On a separate piece of paper, write a feature article based on the answers. Feel free to be as creative as you want!

1. What years were you active in your field?

2. Where did you live (region/country)?

3. What was your profession? How was printing relevant to your career or actions?

4. What accomplishment are you most proud of?

5. What development in printing (such as movable type, or the typewriter) was most important to your work and/or the women’s suffrage movement?

6. Any final thoughts as we finish this interview? Alternative option: Create your own question and response here:
Women’s suffrage wouldn’t have had the momentum without the craft of persuasion. Writing an argument is key to gaining popularity and support. Below, you are going to choose a current topic or historical topic that has been argued, debated, and published, and write an argumentative/persuasive piece. Remember to appeal to ethos, pathos or logos when considering your argument. You will plan below and write your final response on a separate piece of paper.

**Writing About Rights**

**Name: ________________________________________**

**Reason #1**
Give an example and ideas that supports your stance.

**Reason #2**
Give an example and ideas that supports your stance.

**Reason #3**
Give an example and ideas that supports your stance.

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**Current Events**
With this topic, you will need to argue using information with modern ideas to prove your point.

- Student Debt Forgiveness
- Minimum Wage
- Labor Unions
- Imminent Domain Issues
- Health Care
- 2nd Amendment Challenges
- Global Warming
- Immigration
- Protests and 1st Amendment
- Succession

**Historical Events**
You will need to put yourself in that era’s shoes and pretend you are writing in that time, just like the people you learned about during your visit.

- Civil Rights
- The Right to Vote
- Taxation without Representation
- Women’s Suffrage
- Social Classes
- Texas Independence
- World Wars
- Space Race
- Communism

**or use your own idea!**

**Topic:** ________________________________________

With your topic, narrow it down to discuss what specifically about it is important. For example, *baseball* as a topic is too broad, but *how baseball started* is a perfect fit.
Post-Visit Discussion

Use the questions below to prompt discussion and reflection after the museum trip.

1. What was your favorite exhibit?

2. What’s one thing you learned from the activities?

3. What’s one thing that surprised you?

4. Is there anything you wished you could have seen more of?

5. Why do you think the development of writing was so important to developing civilization?

6. How do you think literacy rates affected the spread of information?

7. How was the suffragist movement impacted by journalists and printing?

8. How does considering women’s roles in printing change or enhance our understanding of the printing history in America?

9. Do you think the women’s suffrage movement could have occurred without journalists and printers?

10. Which invention or development in journalism and printing do you believe is the most important and why?