Paths to Reform

How two Alabama women worked for change

SS24.AS.15a "Describe the role of women reformers in promoting reform, including Margaret Murray Washington and Julia Tutwiler."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one action by each reformer, then circle the problem that action addressed. Use your marks to explain each woman's role in reform.

Changing Communities and Institutions

1. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, reformers in Alabama pushed for changes in schools, prisons, and community life. Women could not vote in Alabama during much of this period, but they could organize clubs, raise funds, teach, and urge lawmakers to act. Their work did not erase segregation or poverty. Still, it gave women ways to confront problems they saw firsthand. Two reformers, Margaret Murray Washington and Julia Tutwiler, focused on different communities and used different paths to change.

2. Margaret Murray Washington taught at Tuskegee Institute, a school for Black students in Alabama. Through the Tuskegee Woman's Club, she helped organize a kindergarten and programs that supported local families. She also led the National Association of Colored Women, whose members worked for education and community services across the country. Under segregation, Black families often had fewer public resources. Washington used women's networks to build services and to make the needs of Black communities harder for leaders to ignore.

3. Julia Tutwiler worked to widen educational opportunities for women in Alabama. She pressed state leaders to establish a public school where women could receive higher education and job training. The Alabama Girls' Industrial School opened in 1896. Tutwiler also visited prisons and spoke out against harsh conditions. She pushed for education for incarcerated people and better treatment of women in prison. Her petitions and public arguments aimed to change state institutions, not just help one person at a time.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Margaret Murray Washington use women's organizations to address a need in Black communities?

2. What change did Julia Tutwiler seek in women's education, and how did she pursue it?

3. How did Tutwiler try to reform prisons?

4. How did the two reformers use different approaches to make change?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine your community faces a problem today. Write a four-sentence exhibit label that names the problem, proposes one action inspired by each reformer's approach, and explains how the two actions could work together.

ANSWER KEY

Paths to Reform

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one action by each reformer, then circle the problem that action addressed. Use your marks to explain each woman's role in reform. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Margaret Murray Washington use women's organizations to address a need in Black communities?	**She helped organize a kindergarten and family programs through the Tuskegee Woman's Club and led a national organization that supported education and community services.**
2	What change did Julia Tutwiler seek in women's education, and how did she pursue it?	**She urged state leaders to establish a public school where women could receive higher education and job training.**
3	How did Tutwiler try to reform prisons?	**She visited prisons, spoke out against harsh conditions, and pushed for education for incarcerated people and better treatment of women.**
4	How did the two reformers use different approaches to make change?	**Washington organized women to provide community services. Tutwiler pressed state leaders to change public institutions, including schools and prisons.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our community needs more safe places for teens to study after school. Inspired by Washington's organizing, neighbors could form a club to offer free study sessions. Inspired by Tutwiler's appeals to state leaders, students could ask the school board to fund late buses. The club would offer help, while the buses would make it possible for more students to attend.

Accept accurate descriptions of Washington's community organizing and Tutwiler's efforts to change state institutions. For the exhibit label, accept any plausible present-day problem with two distinct actions linked to those approaches.