Paths to Change

Compare reform strategies and the barriers they faced.

USH.C.2.2 "Evaluate the efforts of major reform movements in addressing social issues. Describe the Women's Suffrage Movement, focusing on the leadership of Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one action taken by each reform movement, and circle two barriers to equality so you can compare their methods with the obstacles they faced.

Reform in an Unequal Nation

1. In the late 1800s, women could not vote in most U.S. elections. Elizabeth Cady Stanton argued for women's legal and political equality, while Susan B. Anthony organized campaigns and delivered speeches. Together they used petitions, conventions, and newspapers to keep voting rights in public view. Other reformers followed the Social Gospel, applying Christian teachings about care for others to poverty and inequality. Some opened settlement houses and pushed for safer working conditions, aiming to change the systems that caused hardship.

2. In 1896, the Supreme Court ruled in Plessy v. Ferguson that racial separation in public facilities could be legal if the facilities were equal. This "separate but equal" doctrine gave states support for Jim Crow segregation, although facilities for Black Americans were often inferior. Some states also imposed poll taxes, fees people had to pay to vote, and literacy tests, reading tests often applied unfairly to block Black voters. These rules reduced political power when Black communities needed a voice against discrimination.

3. Black leaders disagreed about how to respond. Booker T. Washington emphasized job training and economic progress, hoping these would bring greater opportunity. W.E.B. Du Bois demanded immediate voting rights and full equality. Ida B. Wells exposed lynching through investigative journalism and called for action. In 1905, Du Bois and other activists formed the Niagara Movement to demand civil rights. The NAACP, founded in 1909, carried forward the fight through public campaigns and court cases, challenging barriers that restricted Black Americans' opportunities.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Stanton and Anthony's approach to change differ from the Social Gospel reformers' approach?

2. How did the Plessy decision and voting restrictions reinforce unequal power?

3. Compare how Washington, Du Bois, and Wells responded to racial injustice.

4. How did the Niagara Movement and the NAACP work to expand opportunities for Black Americans?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a short newspaper editorial set in 1909 urging readers to support one reform effort in the passage. Explain the problem, the effort's strategy, how it could expand opportunity, and one barrier it faced.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one action taken by each reform movement, and circle two barriers to equality so you can compare their methods with the obstacles they faced. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Stanton and Anthony's approach to change differ from the Social Gospel reformers' approach?	**Stanton and Anthony used speeches, petitions, conventions, and newspapers to seek voting rights. Social Gospel reformers applied Christian principles to poverty and inequality through efforts such as settlement houses and safer working conditions.**
2	How did the Plessy decision and voting restrictions reinforce unequal power?	**Plessy supported segregation even though facilities for Black Americans were often inferior. Poll taxes and unfairly applied literacy tests blocked Black voters from gaining political power to challenge discrimination.**
3	Compare how Washington, Du Bois, and Wells responded to racial injustice.	**Washington emphasized job training and economic progress. Du Bois demanded immediate voting rights and full equality. Wells used investigative journalism to expose lynching and call for action.**
4	How did the Niagara Movement and the NAACP work to expand opportunities for Black Americans?	**The Niagara Movement demanded civil rights. The NAACP carried that fight forward through public campaigns and court cases challenging barriers to opportunity.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our town should support the new NAACP because segregation limits Black Americans' opportunities. Its public campaigns and court cases can challenge rules that permit unfair treatment. This work could help make public facilities fairer, but poll taxes and unfair literacy tests still silence many voters who could demand change. Residents should speak out in support of equal rights.

Accept other passage-supported comparisons and evaluations. For the editorial, look for a clear link between a problem, a reform strategy, its possible effect, and a barrier.