

Distance Learning for High School

Social Studies Day

Instructions: Read the following article and complete the evidence ranking activity that follows.

1 **Where are the women? New effort to give them just due on monuments, street names**
2 **By Shachar Peled, CNN, March 8, 2017**

3 Lady Liberty is one of the United States' most famous symbols. But this female personification of freedom
4 and hope stands virtually alone in a sea of male-centered monuments that dot the American landscape.

5 The relative lack of women represented in landmarks, public sculptures and street names has spurred a wave
6 of efforts -- from congressional commissions to individual initiatives -- trying to bring about change.
7 Of the 5,575 outdoor sculpture portraits of historical figures in the United States, 559 portray women, a mere
8 10% of all statues, according to the Smithsonian American Art Museum's online inventories catalog.

9 The National Park Service lists 152 monuments in the United States, which range from buildings to
10 volcanoes and canyons. Only three (less than 2%) are dedicated to historic female figures: Harriet Tubman
11 Underground Railroad National Historic Park in Maryland, the Belmont-Paul Women's Equality National
12 Monument in the District of Columbia, and the Rose Atoll in the US territory of American Samoa, named for
13 a female explorer. All three have been established in the past decade.

14 None of the 30 national memorials managed under the park service specifically honor women, though there's
15 one named after a shrub, the four-wing saltbush (Chamizal). "It's abysmal and it is going to change, because
16 people will gradually be encouraged to think how they want to honor women in their own community," says
17 Pam Elam, president of the Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony Statue Fund. ...

18 ... Elam is part of a larger movement aiming for change across the country. In Washington, the American
19 Museum of Women's History Congressional Commission has presented a study conducted over 18 months.
20 "After studying all the very rich history that women have been part of, there is just no entity out there right
21 now that is doing a complete job," says Jane Abraham, the commission chair. "Women have played major
22 roles in the mosaic of our country and those should be taught and illuminated."

23 Perhaps the most successful campaign thus far belongs to Lynette Long of Miami Beach, Florida, whose
24 nine-year effort is now bearing fruit in the form of an Amelia Earhart sculpture in the Capitol's National
25 Statuary Hall. Long wrote her first op-ed on underrepresentation of women in the early 1990s, when she
26 went to the post office and there were hardly any stamps of women. She said it was the "unbelievable
27 sexism" of the 2008 election campaign that drove her to establish Equal Visibility Everywhere, a group
28 dedicated to achieving gender parity in the symbols and icons of the United States....

29 **The obstacles ahead**

30 "There has been a concerted effort in the past eight to ten years to tell a broader and inclusive American
31 story," says Jeffrey Olson, a spokesman for the National Park Service. The drivers often are public
32 engagement and studies that are done periodically to point out parts of the American narrative that are
33 underrepresented, Olson says. But he adds that he was never asked to present a gender-based comparison.

34 Long believes it all begins with awareness. "When we started our organization, people didn't notice that
35 when the new 56 quarters were out, only one state -- Alabama -- had a woman on the back," she says. Long
36 also became vocal when she noticed the scarcity of women in the early Google Doodles. "When we reached

37 out to them they weren't aware of it, they didn't even think about it. I don't think they were intentionally
38 sexist. You make them aware and it changes."

39 Then there's also funding and location hurdles. ...For their Central Park project, Elam and her group must
40 raise \$1.5 million. She claims they had to overcome obstacles such as providing evidence of Stanton and
41 Anthony's historical presence in the park. "I doubt that any of the other statues of men had to go through
42 those levels of specificity," Elam says. ...

43 As for Long, she is not stopping at Earhart. Writer and activist Marjory Stoneman Douglas will be her lucky
44 number 11 in the national hall -- if the Florida Legislature acts.

45 "It's always a battle," Long says, recalling her attempt to get "Uncle Tom's Cabin" author Harriet Beecher
46 Stowe to represent Ohio, but losing the spot to inventor Thomas Edison. "People don't want to give the spots
47 up and even if they do there's a lot of competition." ...

Activity Instructions: The author's claim has already been determined for you. Your task is to determine which evidence best supports that claim. Rank the evidence from 1 to 8 by writing the number in the box. The number 1 will represent the most effective or best supporting evidence and the number 8 will represent the least effective evidence.

Author's Claim: <i>Women are underrepresented in U.S. monuments and memorials.</i>	
Ranking	Evidence
	Long also became vocal when she noticed the scarcity of women in the early Google Doodles. "When we reached out to them they weren't aware of it, they didn't even think about it. I don't think they were intentionally sexist. You make them aware and it changes." (Lines 35 - 38).
	Of the 5,575 outdoor sculpture portraits of historical figures in the United States, 559 portray women, a mere 10% of all statues (lines 7 & 8).
	Long wrote her first op-ed on underrepresentation of women in the early 1990s, when she went to the post office and there were hardly any stamps of women (Lines 25 & 26).
	None of the 30 national memorials managed under the park service specifically honor women, though there's one named after a shrub, the four-wing saltbush (Chamizal). (Lines 14 & 15).
	But he adds that he was never asked to present a gender-based comparison. (Line 33).
	"It's always a battle," Long says, recalling her attempt to get "Uncle Tom's Cabin" author Harriet Beecher Stowe to represent Ohio, but losing the spot to inventor Thomas Edison. (Lines 45-46).
	The National Park Service lists 152 monuments in the United States, which range from buildings to volcanoes and canyons. Only three (less than 2%) are dedicated to historic female figures (Lines 9 & 10).
	Writer and activist Marjory Stoneman Douglas will be her lucky number 11 in the national hall -- if the Florida Legislature acts. (Lines 43 & 44).

Which piece of evidence is most effective? Why?

Which piece of evidence is least effective? Why?