

Name _____

Date _____

Susan B. Anthony & Perseverance - Answer Key

Use the text to answer each question below.

1. Susan Brownell Anthony was born on February 15, 1820 in Adams, Massachusetts. Her parents were Quakers and therefore believed in equality and activism. They believed in abolition and worked to end slavery in the United States. In the Quaker meeting house, men and women had an equal voice, so Anthony grew up thinking men and women were treated equally everywhere.

Which of the following is something a Quaker would most likely believe?

**A.**

Men and women should be treated equally.

According to the passage, "Quakers... believed in equality," and "in the Quaker meeting house, men and women had an equal voice."

B. Men's opinions are more valuable than women's.

C. There is no need to end slavery in the United States.

D. Even if you believe in a cause, you shouldn't fight for it.

2. Quakers also believed in temperance, or not drinking alcohol. As an adult, Anthony joined the Temperance Movement, a group of people working to create stronger liquor laws. As a temperance worker, she met Elizabeth Cady Stanton, also an activist, and the two would be friends for the rest of their lives.

While fighting for temperance, Anthony and Stanton encountered many obstacles. Once, they collected 28,000 signatures on a petition to the New York State Legislature to limit liquor sales. The legislature ignored the petition because most of the signatures were from women. Since women could not vote, they held no power over the government. Anthony and Stanton realized that, to be taken seriously, women needed to be able to vote. They focused their efforts on women's suffrage, or the right of women to vote.

Why did Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton focus their attention on women's suffrage?

- A. Elizabeth Cady Stanton wanted to run for president.
- B. They believed women would vote to expand liquor sales.
- C. Susan B. Anthony believed that if women voted, slavery would be abolished.
- ✓ D. They realized that to have any power in government, women needed to be able to vote.

According to the passage, "Anthony and Stanton realized that, to be taken seriously, women needed to be able to vote."

3. In its original form, the US Constitution didn't guarantee women the right to vote. In order for women to be allowed to vote in elections, there needed to be an amendment, or change, to the Constitution. In 1869, Anthony and Stanton founded the National Woman Suffrage Association to try to convince Congress to add an amendment giving women the right to vote. Anthony traveled around the country making speeches to raise awareness for women's suffrage and to emphasize the importance of an amendment.

Which of the following does **not** describe an amendment?

- A. After the Constitution was ratified, a new article was added to guarantee freedom of speech.
- B. In 1919, Congress added an article to the Constitution, making it illegal to sell alcohol.
- ✓ C. The power to collect taxes has always been given to Congress in the Constitution.
- D. In 1865, Congress added a section to the Constitution, outlawing slavery.

According to the passage, an amendment is a change to the Constitution. The power to collect taxes was in the original document, so it is not an amendment.

4. In 1872, Anthony and a group of other women cast ballots in the presidential election. Anthony was so famous for her activism that the police arrested her, and not the other women, for voting. Her case went to trial. The judge directed the jury to find her guilty without even discussing her case. At the time, people on trial were not allowed to speak in their own defense, so Anthony was only allowed to speak after the trial was over. She said, “You have trampled underfoot every vital principle of our government. My natural rights, my civil rights, my political rights, my judicial rights, are all alike ignored.” The jury found her guilty and the judge sentenced her to a \$100 fine. She refused to pay.

Which of the following best describes the relationship between Susan B. Anthony and the judge at her trial?

A. The judge thought Anthony’s cause was just.



B.

Anthony thought the judge was ignoring her rights.

According to the passage, Anthony said the court had “trampled underfoot every vital principle of our government. My natural rights, my civil rights, my political rights, my judicial rights, are all alike ignored.”

C. Anthony and the judge agreed that Anthony had been treated unfairly.

D. The judge and Anthony both thought that Anthony should be found guilty.

5. Anthony was not always a popular person. Many people didn't like the causes she fought for. Often people would call her names and write bad things about her in newspaper articles. She ignored all this and kept fighting for the things she believed in, showing perseverance and determination. While she is best known for fighting for women's suffrage, she also fought for women's rights, education reform, labor reform, temperance and abolition. She spoke to Congress about a suffrage amendment every year from 1869 to 1906, the year that she died.

Women finally got the right to vote in 1920, 14 years after Anthony died, when Congress passed the 19th Amendment. The alternate name for the amendment was the Susan B. Anthony Amendment. In 1979, the United States government honored her contribution to the country by making her the first woman to be depicted on a coin. You can still find some Susan B. Anthony dollar coins in circulation today.

Which of the following best demonstrates Susan B. Anthony's perseverance?

- A. She addressed Congress in 1869.
- B. Congress passed the 19th Amendment in 1920.
- C. The US government honored her by putting her on a coin in 1979. ☒
- D. ☐ She continued to fight for what she believed despite people calling her names and writing bad things about her.

According to the passage, "Anthony was not always a popular person. Many people didn't like the causes she fought for. Often people would call her names and write bad things about her in newspaper articles. She ignored all this and kept fighting for the things she believed in..." Perseverance means keeping at something no matter how difficult it is.

6. While Anthony and other well-known suffragists fought hard for women's right to vote, they focused mainly on *White* women. At the time the Civil War ended, only White men could legally vote. Black and White activists often worked together to advocate for universal suffrage, or voting rights for every citizen, no matter their race or gender.

That changed when the 15th Amendment was proposed. This amendment would give all Black men the right to vote. Anthony opposed the legislation. She argued that the rights of one group should not come before others. She did believe that Black men should have the right to vote, but not before White women did. Anthony and Stanton realized that they would have to get White conservative politicians on their side. They employed racist and elitist arguments as to why White women should get the vote before Black men. They intentionally excluded Black women from the movement. This created a divide between Black and White feminists that still exists today.

Which of these best explains why Anthony opposed the 15th Amendment?

- A. She thought all women should be barred from voting.



B.

She thought all citizens should have the right to vote, not just Black men.

According to the passage, Anthony “advocate[d] for universal suffrage” and opposed the 15th Amendment, arguing that “the rights of one group should not come before others.”

- C. She thought Black women should get the vote before Black men.

- D. She did not think voting rights needed to be expanded.