

**PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT
HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS
DUE FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2008**

I. Women's Suffrage – Primary Source Documents

This is a copy of a news article that appeared in the *Philadelphia Tribune*, January 1910. Elizabeth Smith Miller and Anne Fitzhugh Miller preserved it in one of the scrapbooks that they kept of the women's suffrage movement. It is now stored in the Library of Congress, Rare Book and Special Collections Division in Washington, D.C. The article on the back of this sheet is also from this series of scrapbooks.

Context

Recently returned from London, Alice Paul talks about her experience with British radical suffragettes, disrupting Prime Minister Asquith at Guild Hall meeting and being force-fed in Holloway jail. These tactics would be repeated in the fight for women's suffrage in the U.S.

Answer the following questions using the reading to the right, on the back of this page, and what you have learned in class.

1. How does the author describe Alice Paul?
2. How was Paul forcibly fed? Make sure you use a lot of gruesome details.
3. What did Paul shout that caused a disturbance "as if I had thrown a bomb"?
4. What college was she attending at the time?
5. What were the reasons that Paul spent her prison time in bed?
6. How did Paul resist the forced feeding?
7. On the matter of throwing stones, the two articles do not agree. What is the difference between the way the London article describes Paul's actions and the account that Paul gives?

**ALICE PAUL TALKS
Hunger Striker Describes
Forcible Feeding.**

Philadelphia, Jan. 2.—"Revolting" is the word Miss Alice Paul, the American suffragette, who returned on Thursday by the steamer Havertford from exciting adventures in England, applies to the forced feeding which she endured in Holloway jail. Miss Paul, by the way, doesn't look at all like the popular conception of an agitator. She astonishes persons who see her for the first time, after hearing of her doings, by her exceedingly feminine appearance. She is a delicate slip of a girl, whom no one would suspect of being an interrupter of public meetings and a victim of prison hardships.

"I resorted to the 'hunger strike' method twice," she said to a Tribune reporter. "I was clapped into jail three times while in England, and during my first and sec-

ond terms I refused to eat. Once I didn't touch food for five days. Then the authorities decided to feed me by force. I refused to wear the prison garb, too, and I would not perform the labor I was sentenced to do; so, of course, I had to spend my days in bed. When the forcible feeding was ordered I was taken from my bed, carried to another room and forced into a chair, bound with sheets, and sat upon bodily by a fat murderer, whose duty it was to keep me still. Then the prison doctor, assisted by two women attendants, placed a rubber tube up my nostrils and pumped liquid food through it into the stomach. Twice a day for a month, from November 1 to December 1, this was done.

When Miss Paul was asked if she ever threw a stone through a window, she said: "No, indeed. I never did and I never shall. I think such deeds belong to rioters, and women are seldom rioters."

Miss Paul merely threw words at the Prime Minister, Mr. Asquith, and frightened him, she says, nearly to death. It was during a meeting at Guild Hall, Miss Paul, who seems not to mind going without food for any length of time, got into the

hall the night before, disguised as a scrub woman, and secreted herself until the meeting began.

"It was a weary vigil," she said, "but it paid. The Prime Minister made a most eloquent speech, and I listened, waiting for a chance to break in. At last there came a pause. Summoning all my strength, I shouted at the top of my voice: 'How about votes for women?'"

"You would have thought I had thrown a bomb. There was serious disorder, but Mr. Asquith was the most startled of all. You see, the hall was guarded by a cordon of police, and he felt safe from interruption. While the officers searched for me he stood like a statue, after one great start. I was found and arrested, and imprisonment followed."

Miss Paul left Philadelphia for her home in Moorestown, N. J., immediately after landing, and intends to give her attention for the present to the recovery of her health, which suffered somewhat from her stormy experience. She is a graduate of Swarthmore College and had gone to England to continue her studies, when she was drawn into the militant suffrage movement.

II. Primary Sources – How the Movement was Reported

Being Fed Through Nostrils Is Described by Alice Paul, Young American Suffragette

Inventor of Hunger Strike Tells How British Prison Physicians Keep Life in Women Who Won't Eat or Wear Clothes.

London, Dec. 9.—Miss Alice Paul, of Philadelphia, the suffragette who was arrested November 9th and sentenced to a month's hard labor for her share in the suffragette demonstration at the Lord Mayor's banquet at the Guildhall, was released from Holloway jail this morning on the completion of her thirty days. She left the prison in a cab, accompanied by two wardresses, and went to the home of friends. A doctor was immediately called to attend her there, owing to her weakened condition.

Miss Paul, who was the inventor of the suffragettes' "hunger strike" and practiced it during her latest term in jail, was cheerful, and said she did not regret her conduct, and was prepared to repeat it again if necessary. She said she was unable to undergo the ordeal of an interview, but later she sent your correspondent a statement by a friend. On previous convictions, Miss Paul was able to gain her freedom by refusing to eat, but her tactics were futile this time.

Miss Paul said she was the granddaughter of a New Jersey judge, and a master of arts of the University of Pennsylvania. She had done a great deal of settlement work during the last four years, and came to London in September, 1908, to study economics. After saying that she was first struck by the contrast between the academic interest in woman suffrage in America and the lively character of the movement here, Miss Paul told this story of her prison life.

"I practiced a hunger strike until November 11th. After that date they fed me twice a day by force, except on one day when I was too ill to be touched. I have no complaints against the Holloway officials. I spent the whole time in bed, because I refused to wear prison clothes.

Each day, I was wrapped in blankets and taken to another cell to be fed, the food being injected through my nostrils.

"During this operation the largest Wardress in Holloway sat astride my knees, holding my shoulders down to keep me from bending forward. Two other wardresses sat on either side and held my arms. Then a towel was placed around my throat, and one doctor from behind forced my head back, while another doctor put a tube in my nostril. When it reached my throat my head was pushed forward.

"Twice the tube came through my mouth and I got it between my teeth. My mouth was then pried open with an instrument. Sometimes they tied me to a chair with sheets. Once I managed to get my hands loose and snatched the tube, tearing it with my teeth. I also broke a jug, but I didn't give in."

Miss Paul lives alone in London. Her friend told me with great gusto how Miss Paul had eluded the vigilance of the police at the Lord Mayor's banquet. It seems she and Miss Amelia Brown, her partner in the escapade, dressed as charwomen, went to the Guildhall at 9 o'clock in the morning. Every time they met anyone they asked the way to the kitchen. They had many hairbreadth escapes, and once, seeing a policeman close at hand, they knelt down to escape notice. In the dark the policeman actually put his cape on them. Finally they succeeded in getting to the gallery overlooking the banquet hall, where they shrieked and threw stones through a stained glass window.

Miss Lucy Burns, the other American suffragette, is following Winston Spencer Churchill around the country, making it as warm as possible for the President of the Board of Trade.