US History

Iron Jawed Angels Video Guide

Please fill out the following questions as you watch, or after you watch the movie. You should turn this in to the substitute after you are done.

1. Ben Weissman asks Alice Paul, “What will women do with their vote? Reform politics?” What does she answer? What can one do with one’s vote?

2. Explain the strategic differences over how to win the vote for women. When and why did Paul and Burns break from NAWSA and form the Congressional Union? What was their goal? When did the Congressional Union become the National Woman’s Party?

3. What role did African-American women play in the struggle for universal suffrage?

4. What is your reaction to the exchange between Paul and Wells-Barnett?
5. What was the reaction of the press, the White House, Carrie Chapman Catt and NAWSA to the NWP’s decision to picket the White House?

6. How did the women come to be called “Iron Jawed Angels”?

7. Do you think suffragists were willing to die for their cause? Is there any cause today you might have that level or type of passion for?


9. Describe the interactions between Wilson and the suffragists. What finally changed Wilson’s mind? What did he do? According to Wilson, in what ways was suffrage for women a war measure?

10. What contemporary elements did director Katja von Garnier incorporate in the film? In your view, how do these stylistic decisions affect the film’s impact?