



Celebrating Dolores Huerta Day!

Civic Engagement: Reproductive Rights

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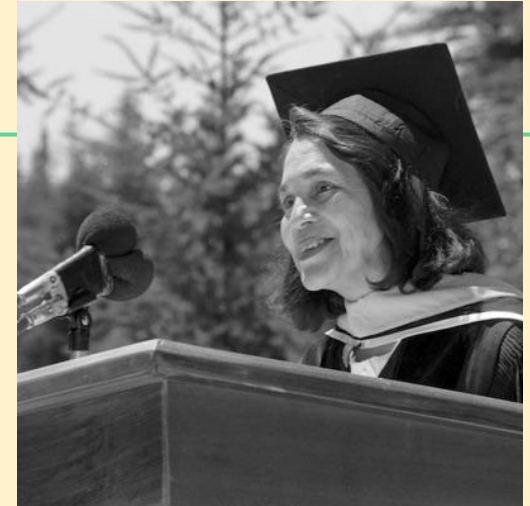


Photo courtesy Special Collections, University Library, University of California Santa Cruz.

Five-Day Unit Goals

- Students will be introduced to Dolores Huerta's activism and Dolores Huerta Day
- Students will examine the power of civic engagement through Dolores Huerta's activism work
- Students will understand policy context that led to organizing actions and the resulting laws
- Students will be introduced to history of reproductive rights and key figures (including Gloria Steinem and her relationship with Dolores Huerta)
- Students will examine methods of critical literacy and consider what is necessary to shift opinion on a topic

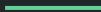
Day 1

Introduction to Dolores Huerta

And Dolores Huerta Day
on April 10th

Are you familiar with Dolores
Huerta?

Write down anything and everything
that you know about Dolores Huerta



Who is Dolores Huerta?

Brief Background:

- Born in April 10, 1930 in Dawson, New Mexico
- Active in numerous school clubs
- Was a majorette
- Dedicated member of the Girl Scouts until the age of 18.
- Continued her education at the University of Pacific's Delta College in Stockton earning a provisional teaching credential.
- While teaching she could no longer bear to see her students come to school with empty stomachs and bare feet, and thus began her lifelong journey of working to correct economic injustice.
- Dolores left for delano from stockton in 1962
- Mother of 11



Photo credit: Kathy Murphy, used with permission.

Who is Dolores Huerta?

What She Saw

- Segregation
- Discrimination
- Poor Social conditions of Farmworkers
- Poor economic conditions of farm workers

What She Did

- Quit teaching to fight farmworker oppression
- 1955 stockton chapter of Community Service Organization (CSO) with Fred Ross
- 1960 Started Agricultural Workers of America (AWA)
- Voter registration Drives
- Lobbied politicians to allow non-US citizens to receive public assistance, pensions, and Spanish ballots, Spanish driving tests



Photo Credit: Dolores Huerta Foundation, photographer Angela Torres.



Who is Dolores Huerta?

Celebrating Dolores Huerta Day!

- April 10th (Dolores Huerta's birthday)
- Established in 2019 in California
- Recognition of lifelong pursuit of justice



About image: used by the State of California to recognize the day. Graphic designer unknown.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT STATE OF CALIFORNIA

PROCLAMATION

A living legend, Dolores Clara Huerta was born on April 10, 1930, in Dawson, New Mexico. Taught by her family the importance of giving back to her community and giving a voice to the voiceless, Huerta has been a tireless advocate for working people of California.

Huerta's lifelong pursuit of justice was sparked in the Central Valley when, teaching the children of farmworkers, she often saw her students come to school with empty stomachs and bare feet. Finding her passion fighting for the rights of workers and their families, she has never stopped working towards equality. She began her advocacy work by serving as a leader of the Community Service Organization in Stockton and forming the Agricultural Workers Association, where she worked to increase voter registration in her community and advocated for neighborhood improvements.

Through this work, she joined forces with César Chávez to advocate for better conditions for farmworkers and their families. Together with Larry Irlong, Philip Vera Cruz, Pete Velasco and Andy Imutan, they formed the United Farm Workers and took on grape growers who were exploiting the people who toiled in their fields. Huerta was instrumental in the nationwide boycott of grapes that led to the first farmworker union contracts. Her fierce advocacy also helped secure the California Agricultural Labor Relations Act of 1975, a first-in-the-nation law that extended collective bargaining rights to farmworkers. She remained committed to nonviolent resistance, even after nearly losing her life when she was beaten at a protest in 1988.

It is for these acts of bravery and determination that Huerta became the first Latina inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame in 1993 and was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award in the United States, in 2016.

Huerta continues to be a powerful force for social justice and empowerment for all. Through her leadership of the Dolores Huerta Foundation, she continues to build upon her legacy of civic engagement by training the next generation of community organizers and advocating for the working poor, women and children.

Today, Huerta's 89th birthday, we honor her lifelong commitment to justice for all and the many trails she paved for generations of activists. May her rallying cry of "¡sí se puede!" continue to call us to fight for the change our communities need to thrive.

NOW THEREFORE I, GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor of the State of California, do hereby proclaim April 10, 2019, as the first annual "Dolores Huerta Day."

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 1st day of April 2019.



GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor of California

ATTEST:

ALEX PADILLA
Secretary of State

What is Civic Engagement?



[Image by Stockcake:](#)

Community Rising Together
(public domain).

Civic engagement means working to make a difference in the civic life of our **communities** and developing the combination of **knowledge, skills, values** and **motivations** to make that difference. It means promoting the **quality of life** in a community, through both **political** and **non-political processes** (Civic Responsibility in Higher Education, Ehrlich, 2000, p.vi).

Operating with unwavering **hope**, we believe in achieving the seemingly unattainable. “**Si se puede**” embodies a **collective awakening to individual and communal power**. Our civic engagement department is dedicated to equipping **grassroots leaders** with the **tools** and **knowledge** essential for guiding their **communities** toward enduring **transformative solutions**. We aim to create a Central Valley of **informed** and **engaged citizens** and **voters** ready to **advocate, educate, vote**, and use our political system to create a more **just** and **equitable** Central Valley (Dolores Huerta Foundation website).

A Woman's Role...



Photo courtesy © George Ballis,
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Photo courtesy © Lori de León, used with permission.

Dolores Huerta: 58 Sexist Comments in the United Farm Workers Meeting

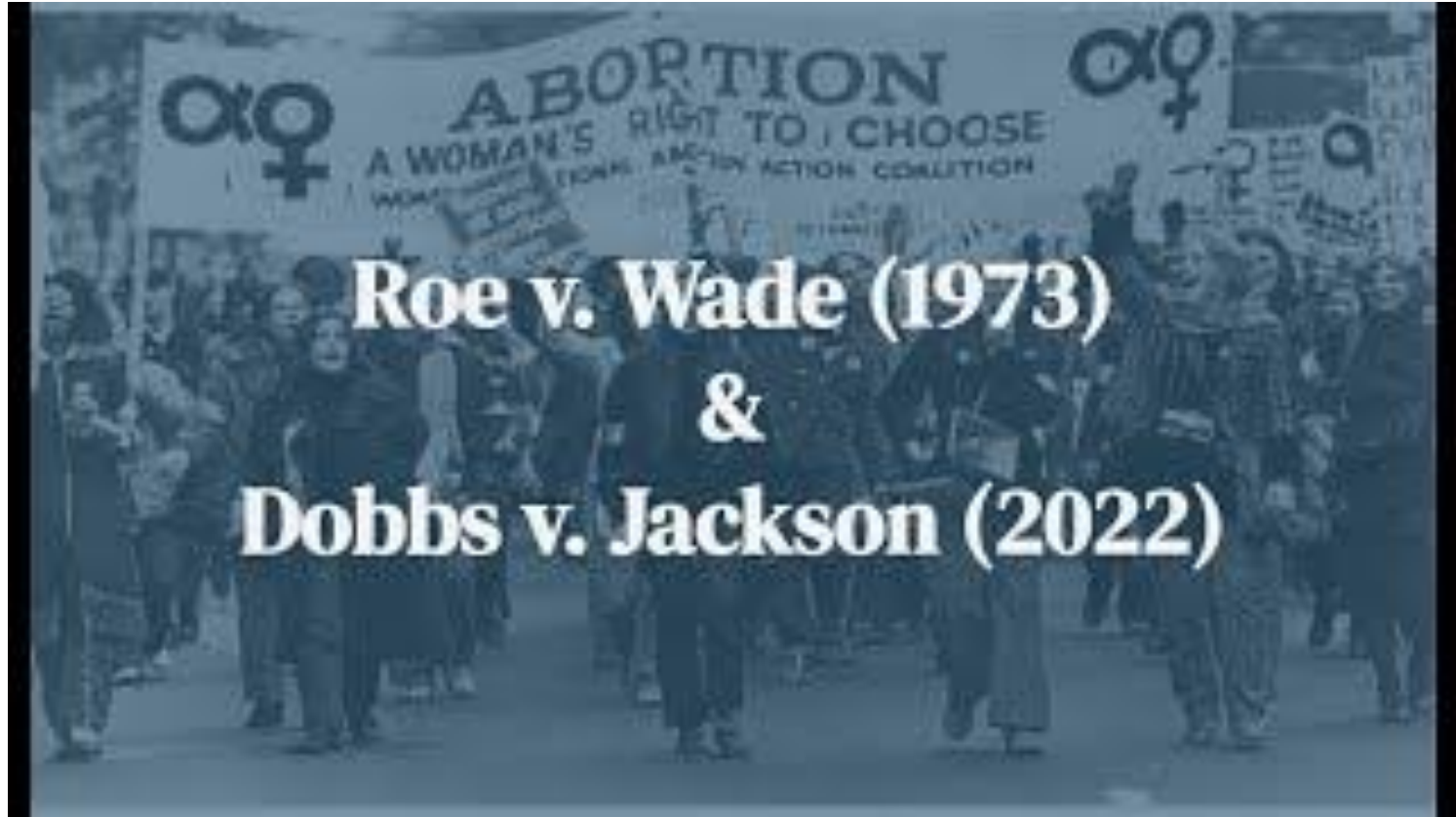




The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), first proposed in 1923, is an amendment to the United States Constitution that guarantees equality of rights under the law for all persons regardless of sex.

As of January 27, 2020, the ERA has satisfied the requirements of Article V of the Constitution for ratification (passage by two-thirds of each house of Congress and approval by three-fourths of the states).

Leading constitutional scholars agree that the ERA is now part of the Constitution. Because of issues raised about its unique ratification process (explained on the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page), the Archivist of the United States has not yet taken the final ministerial step of publishing the ERA in the *Federal Register* with certification of its ratification as the 28th Amendment.



Current Status of Reproductive Rights

Reproductive Rights Activists



Emma Goldman

Source: Bain, Public Domain via
Wikimedia Commons



Margaret Sanger

Source: Underwood & Underwood, Public Domain via
Wikimedia Commons



Gloria Steinem

Source: Warren K. Leffler, Public Domain via
Wikimedia Commons



Eleanor Smeal

Source: Jim Wallace (Smithsonian
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Dolores Huerta and Gloria Steinem



Discussion Questions

- Why are reproductive rights linked to women's rights?
 - Are reproductive rights just a women's issue?
 - Why do you think Dolores Huerta changed her mind about her stance on abortion?
-

Day 2

The Urgency of Intersectionality: Kimberlé Crenshaw

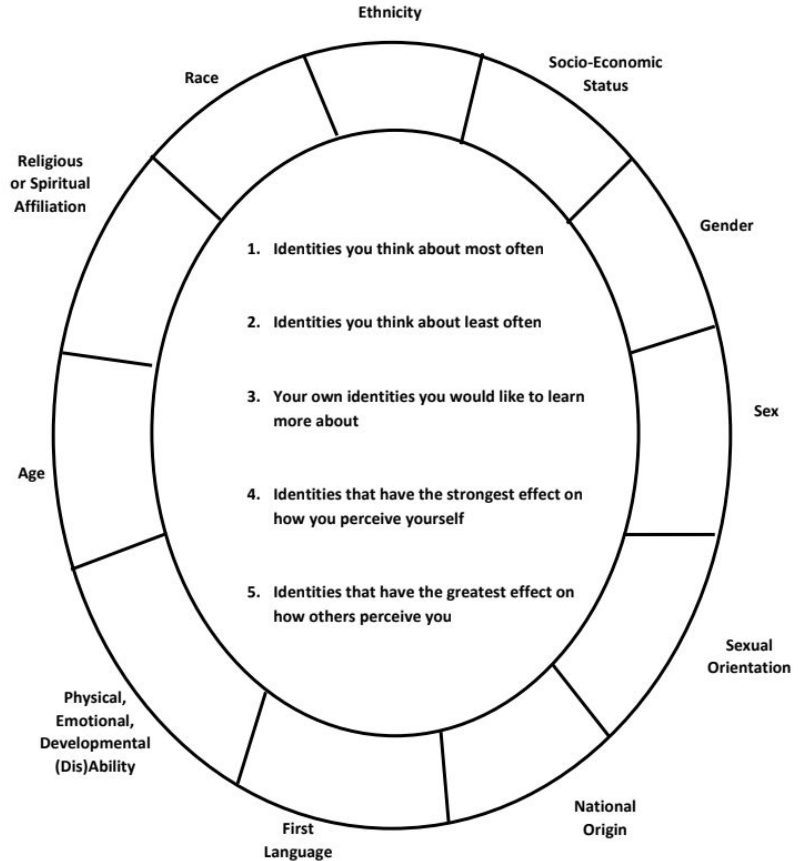


Who am I? Activity

- Pass out notecards
- On one side, write down words that they would use to describe themselves
- On the other side, write down words that others might use to describe them
- Reflect on the differences between these two sides and what is lost when you only use words that others would use
- Discuss as a class

Social Identity Wheel

- Review social identity handout
- Fill in the wheel and then write answers to each question
- Pair/share and then with the whole class as comfortable

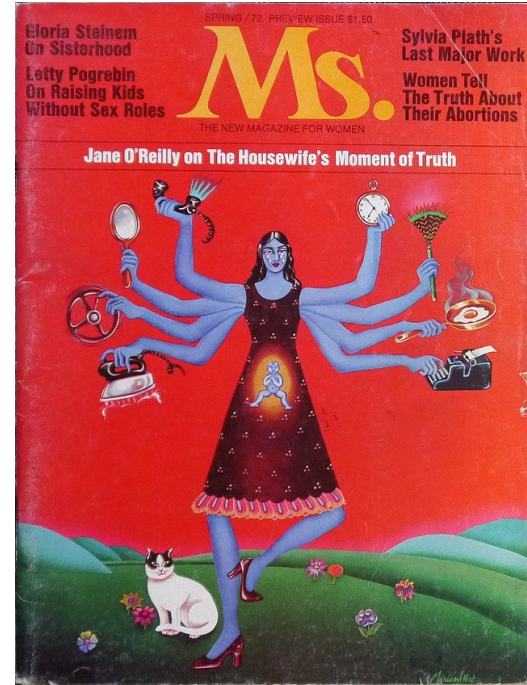


Introduction to the Development of Feminist Media

- Women's Liberation and Women in Print Movement spurred development of feminist media in early 1970s
- Newsletters such as *Matrices*, *The Lesbian/Gay History Researchers Network Newsletter*, and the *Lesbian Herstory Archives* functioned as a network for sharing information and resources and facilitated collaboration across space, with people who were otherwise difficult to know about, let alone reach.

Introduction to the Development of Feminist Media

- **Ms. Magazine** was created in 1971 by journalist, political and social activist Gloria Steinem
- Several landmark stories on topics including abortion, overseas sweatshops, sex trafficking, the wage gap, the glass ceiling, date rape, and domestic violence.
- Bought by The Feminist Majority (Dolores Huerta is a board member) in 2001



Ms. Magazine Cover (Spring 1972)

Source: Liberty Media for Women LLC, [CC BY-SA 4.0](#) via Wikimedia Commons

Introduction to the Development of Feminist Media

Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press

- Started in 1980 by Barbara Smith, Beverly Smith, Cherríe Moraga, and poet Audre Lorde
- A press run by and for women of color - other arenas of publishing were white-dominated
- Reaction to racism within women's movement in late 1970's
- Some of Kitchen Table's most popular titles include: 1984 anthology by Cherríe Moraga and Gloria Anzaldúa titled *This Bridge Called My Back: Writings by Radical Women of Color* and Barbara Smith's *Home Girls: A Black Feminist Anthology*, first published in 1984 and Audre Lorde's *I Am Your Sister: Black Women Organizing Across Sexualities*.

Discussion Questions

- How did the development of feminist media further activist movements?
 - How is feminist media an example of resistance to oppression?
 - What challenges do you think women of color activists faced that were different from white women activists?
-

Day 3

The Power of Changing Your Mind

Developing Critical Literacy Skills

- In pairs, read two articles.
- Discuss the following questions:
 - What is being reported on in this article?
 - What is the theme of the article?
 - What words or phrases stick out to you as you read?
 - What is the mood or takeaway that the author(s) wants us to have while reading?

Wagon Wheel Activity

- Get into two circles, one facing in and one facing out so that every student is across from someone
- Listen for questions read aloud
- Students have 2 minutes to discuss the question and then the inner circle will rotate to the right and repeat with a new question, until they get back to their original partner
- Debrief: Spend 3-5 minutes writing your reflection on the questions below. Be prepared to share with the class.
 - How did you feel about the activity?
 - How did this discussion change or affect your understanding of the articles we read?
 - What does this have to do with our understanding of the history of reproductive rights?
 - How does it connect to our understanding of feminist media?

Day 4

Identify local women of color community leaders and devise methods of contributing to their causes

- In groups/pairs identify local women of color community leaders
- Brainstorm methods of contributing to their causes

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[Image by Stockcake:](#)

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Civic engagement and support

In the same groups/partners as Day 3, brainstorm within groups on an action that each group can take that aligns with the values identified in their critical literacy analyses from Day 3. These actions can correspond to the community organizations that they researched prior, but they don't have to.

Some examples can include:

- Writing letters to/calling local legislators, encouraging them to support the proposed values/actions
- Creating a campaign within the school (working with student government etc.)
- Signing up to volunteer time at local organization
- Or something else!

Day 5



“¡Sí Se Puede!”: Dolores Huerta’s 50 Years of Activism

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- Or something else!

Present your project to the class
and discuss goals and future steps



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