



Celebrating Dolores Huerta Day!

Civic Engagement: Reproductive Rights

Thanks to support from:

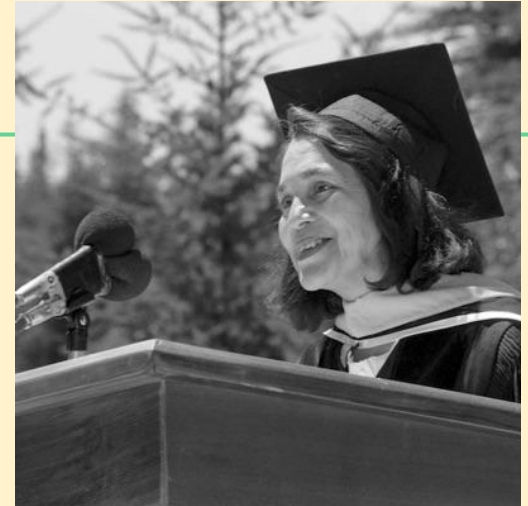


Photo courtesy Special Collections, University Library, University of California Santa Cruz.

One-Day Lesson Goals

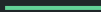
- Students will be introduced to Dolores Huerta's activism and Dolores Huerta Day
- Students will examine the power of civic engagement through Dolores Huerta's activism work
- Students will understand policy context that led to organizing actions and the resulting laws
- Students will be introduced to history of reproductive rights and key figures
- Students will examine methods of critical literacy and consider what is necessary to shift opinion on a topic
- Students will become aware of and engage in local community organizing

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...



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

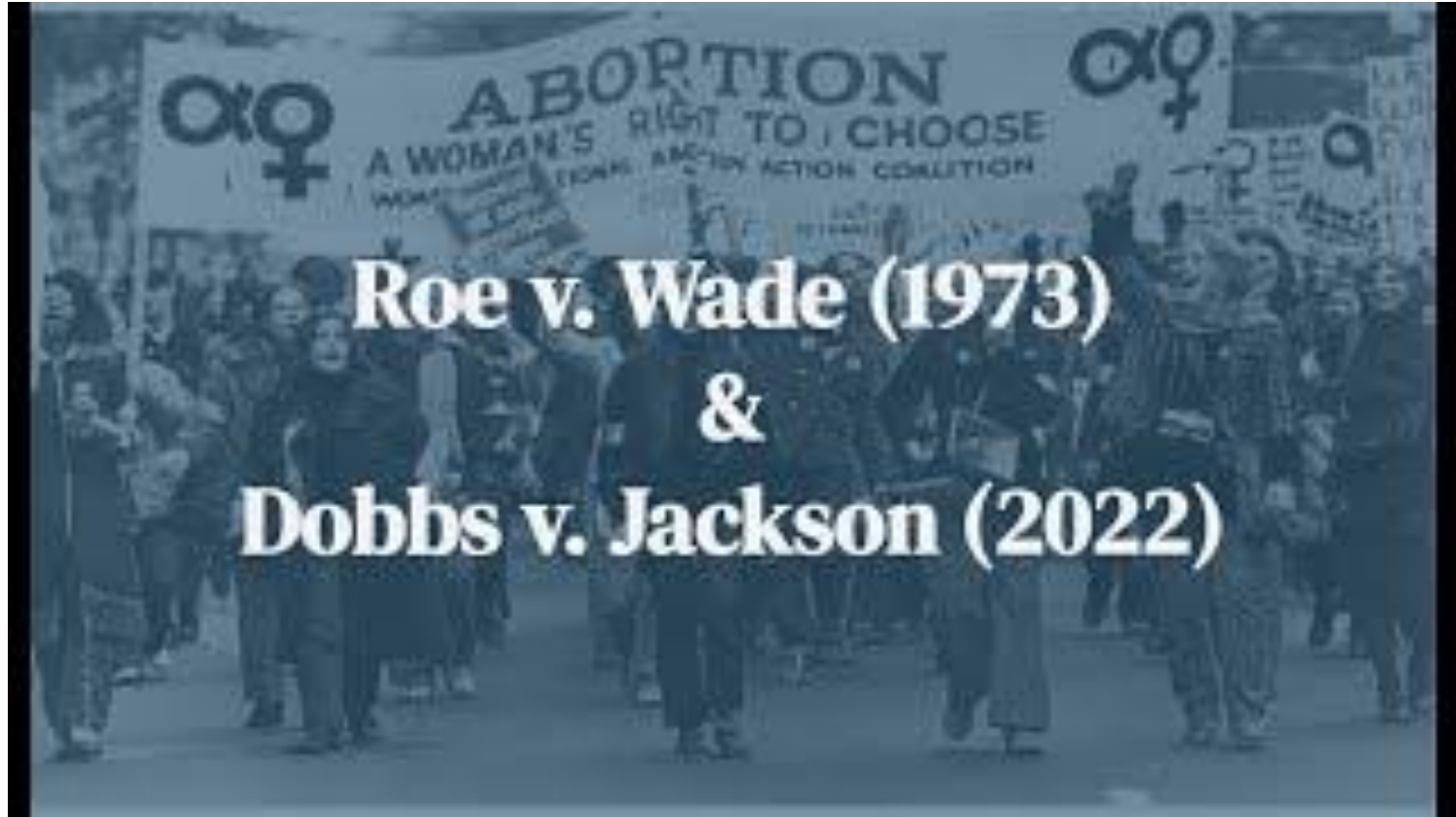




The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), first proposed in 1923, is an amendment to the United States Constitution that guarantees equality of rights under the law for all persons regardless of sex.

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

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Wikimedia Commons



Margaret Sanger

Source: Underwood & Underwood, Public Domain via
Wikimedia Commons



Gloria Steinem

Source: Warren K. Leffler, Public Domain via
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Eleanor Smeal

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Dolores Huerta and Gloria Steinem



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?

Community Engagement: ¡Sí Se Puede!

How can you be involved??

- Research reproductive rights issues and consider ways to participate
 - Boycotting
 - Protesting
 - Calling/writing letters of support to elected officials
 - More!



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