

MIDDLE SCHOOL ESSAY WINNER 2020

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The Valiant Voting Efforts of Ida B. Wells

Valiant *Women of the Vote* to me means that a group of women had the courage and determination and used it to help their communities fight for a women's right to vote. These women used their determination and courage for the rights of their own gender and for those who struggled against many forms of voter suppression including poll taxes, literacy tests, and voter roll purges. I want to recognize Ida B. Wells who was an inspiration to many.

Ida B. Wells was an extraordinary historical American woman and a woman from the original suffrage movement. I want to recognize Ida B. Wells not just for helping in the process of getting rights for women to vote but for possessing courage and determination. Ida B. Wells view of women's enfranchisement was sensible and political. She believed that if we increased the women's vote that women's interest would be represented in laws. She also believed in women's right to vote, but she also saw enfranchisement as a way for black women as well as all women no matter color or sexuality to become politically involved in their communities. Ida B. Wells also wanted black women to use their votes to elect African Americans to influential political offices.

Ida B. Wells actions inspire me because she was a civil rights activist and a person who persevered until things were right. She is someone who inspired change by protesting. Ida B. Wells is someone who fights for the cause of others, not just her own, and paves the way for change in political, economic, or social spheres. Ida B. Wells is my natural national hero.

This concludes my message of who I feel is a valiant woman of the vote. Ida B. Wells was a prominent black suffragist, natural hero, and most definitely a valiant woman. Her determination and courage has given me, other girls, and women a voice in politics. She was also an embodiment of strength to people that were trying to make changes. Her actions helped a lifetime of people and she deserves to be recognized for such determination and courage.