Preparing to Write: The Fight to Win the Vote

The writing prompt on page 16 says:

In an essay, explain the challenges that suffragists had to overcome in their fight for the right to vote. Draw on the play, captions, and informational text to support your ideas.

Follow the directions below to help you plan your essay.

Step 1

Text Marking

Go through the play, the photo captions, and the informational text and mark lines that describe or reveal challenges that suffragists faced. (Alternatively, you can write the lines on another sheet of paper or in a document on a computer. Be sure to note whether each line comes from the play, a caption, or the informational text, and note the page and scene numbers.)

Step 2

Labeling

Think about what type of challenge each line or group of lines you marked shows. Write your ideas next to the lines you marked.

Here are three ideas for what you might write next to some lines from Scene 2 in the play.

• hostility from the public
  Bystander 1: Stop harassing President Wilson!
  Bystander 2: This is unpatriotic! This is treason!

• lack of public support

• opinion that women's suffrage was a distraction from the war effort

Your goal is to end up with some “challenge categories” into which you can organize the lines you marked in the text.

Step 3

Organizing Evidence

Fill in the chart on the next page.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of challenge</th>
<th>Evidence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

In each box in the top row, write one type of challenge the suffragists faced.

Under each challenge, quote or paraphrase lines from the play, captions, and/or informational text that describe or reveal that challenge. (Use the lines you marked in Step 1.)

Now you’re ready to write the first draft of your essay. Be sure to make it clear how your text evidence supports your thesis, or central idea.