"Iron Jawed Angels" Viewing Guide (15 pts.)

This film tells the story of Alice Paul and Lucy Burns and their fight for women's suffrage in the U.S. from 1913-1920. These younger, more progressive women have begun to disagree with the older, more traditional tactics of the National American Woman's Suffrage Association. Paul and Burns decide to create the National Woman's Party (NWP) and begin their own fight for the vote. In what is now known as one of the most successful strategies of the suffrage movement, the NWP protest against Woodrow Wilson and picket outside the White House for months. But when the U.S. enters WWI in 1917, things began to change, and people believed it was immoral to protest against a wartime president.

1. Why do the leaders of the National American Woman's Suffrage Association dislike the English suffragettes?

2. Which two women took over NAWSA's Congressional Committee?

3. Why do the women factory workers change their mind and decide to come to the parade?

4. Why does Ida Wells Barnett from the Chicago delegation have a problem with parade's organization?

5. Why weren't there any people to greet President Woodrow Wilson upon his arrival?

6. Why are Carrie Chapman Catt and Anna Shaw upset with Alice Paul's tactics?

7. Why doesn't Senator Leighton's wife want to get too involved in the suffrage movement?

8. What does it mean when NAWSA suspends the Congressional Union to investigate unauthorized expenditures?

9. What is the purpose of the National Women's Party?
10. Wilson advocated for women to continue campaigning for suffrage state by state but refused to support a national amendment. Why do you think he made this distinction?

11. What happened to Inez Milholland?

12. What does the NWP start doing on January 10, 1917?

13. Why are some women reluctant about continuing to picket the White House after war is declared?

14. What are the women who are arrested charged with?

15. Why don’t the women pay the fine?

16. What happens when Alice Paul refuses to eat?

17. How many states have to agree before the women’s suffrage amendment is put in the Constitution?

18. What final state helped push the women’s suffrage (19th) amendment into the Constitution?