

Hello Teachers!

The Frances Willard House Museum and Archives thanks you for your interest in using our resources in your classroom! Through this guide, you can incorporate important issues of race and gender into your classroom while addressing Illinois Learning Standards in History. This guide uses middle school and high school standards to draft example sets of questions, activities, and projects using online sources provided by this website.

Feel free to use the materials provided however you would like. You can borrow them directly or change them to better suit your students and classroom. If you have any questions about material, ways you think we can improve this experience, or would like to set up classroom visits or field trips to the Willard House or Archives, please reach out to us by email at info@franceswillardhouse.org, by phone at (847) 328-7500, or visit our website for more information about us at franceswillardhouse.org. We look forward to working with you!



Truth
Telling
Frances Willard
& Ida B. Wells



Questions for Classroom Use

These questions reflect Illinois Learning Standards objectives for history at the sixth through eighth grade level. Feel free to use them as standalone discussion questions, paper prompts, or combine them into worksheets. The most complex questions also can be used to address high school standards in the same areas.

Change, Continuity and Context Questions.

Less complex:

What happened between Ida B. Wells and Frances Willard?

What were major turning points in the events that happened? When did they happen?

Was there a resolution between the two women? If there was, what was it? How is this different than when the events started?

More Complex:

What were the most important points in the conflict between Ida B. Wells and Frances Willard?

Does this remind you of any other incidents from the same time period? How so?

Are there any conflicts in more recent history that this reminds you of? How so?

How was the conflict resolved? How does this tie in to Wells' later work? Does her work change? Does it stay the same? How does she interact with other activists after the conflict?

Most Complex:

How was the conflict between Frances Willard and Ida B. Wells important in each of their lives?

What does this conflict show about the Progressive movement? Temperance movement? Suffrage movement? How might the conflict affect each of these movements going forward?

Perspective Questions:

Less Complex:

How did Frances Willard's and Ida B. Wells' mindsets change over the course of the conflict? What caused these changes?

How did the mindsets of the temperance, anti-lynching, and suffrage movements change after the incident?

More Complex:

What factors influenced the decisions made by Willard and Wells during the conflict?

Do you think the conflict is looked at differently today than it was at the time? Why?

Historical Sources and Evidence Questions.

Less Complex:

What are the sources that make up this exhibit? Identify at least two primary sources and two secondary sources. Explain how you can tell the difference.

More complex:

Find two primary sources in the exhibit. Who created them? How might this influence their point of view?

How does the point of view of primary sources affect historians today? Does that mean historians cannot use these sources?

Most Complex:

Pick one primary source documents on the exhibit. Find out all you can about it (who made them, when, where, and who were they made for). Search online for more information about who made them. Remember to use good judgment and follow the rules you've discussed in class on whether or not an online source is credible. When in doubt, ask your teacher for guidance. Write a total of three paragraphs. One should explain your document, the second should tell what you found from other sources, and the last one should tell how what you know affects the meaning of your document.

Causation and Argumentation

Less complex:

What was the main cause of the argument between Ida B. Wells and Frances Willard? What happened after the conflict was over?

Moderately Complex:

Take a look at the online exhibit and pay close attention to how the exhibit shows the dispute between Frances Willard and Ida B. Wells affecting each of these women. How was it important in each of their careers? How about their personal lives?

Next, read longer biographies of Frances Willard and one on Ida B. Wells. How do these books cover the dispute? How does it show the argument as part of their story?

Now that you have the dispute from at least three different sources, pick either Frances Willard or Ida B. Wells. Write about each source (the digital exhibit and biography). Describe each individually and then compare the two. How are they similar? How are they different? Your paper should be at least two pages and have an introduction, a conclusion, one paragraph for each source, one paragraph on how they show the dispute similarly, and one on how they are different.

More Complex:

Take a look at the digital exhibit and pay close attention to how the exhibit shows the dispute between Frances Willard and Ida B. Wells. Pick either Willard or Wells and focus on how the dispute was important in each of their careers and important in their personal lives.

Next, search online and at the library and find at least three other **good** sources about the woman you are studying. Your teacher gave you guidelines to make sure an online source is credible. If you doubt a website is credible, it most likely is not! Make sure you have at least one book as your additional source. Ask yourself the same kinds of questions you did while looking at the digital exhibit and pay close attention to similarities and differences.

Now, based on your research, answer the question for either Ida B. Wells or Frances Willard: “Why was the dispute important to their lives and careers?” Make sure to use all of your sources, cite your information, and be clear where your sources agree and disagree. Your final paper should be between 3-4 pages.

Paper Prompts

Explore the online exhibit and then answer the following questions.

What is the exhibit about? Who are the main people involved? What happened?

What types of sources are in the exhibit? How does the exhibit use them?

What topics were brought up in the exhibit? How were they important at the time? How are they important now?

Now, combine all of the above questions and write a two page paper about this exhibit. Make sure to answer what happened, who were the main actors, what the exhibit used to tell you the information, and why it matters today.