

Historical Figure Interview Journal

Name of Student

Institutional Affiliation

2-2 Historical Figure Interview Journal

For this interview journal, I would select Susan B. Anthony as the historical figure to interview. Susan B. Anthony was born on February 15, 1820, in Adams, Massachusetts, and played a pivotal role in the women's suffrage movement in the United States. As a social reformer and feminist, Anthony dedicated much of her life to women's rights, especially the right to vote (Barry, 2020). She co-founded the American Equal Rights Association in 1866 with Elizabeth Cady Stanton, aiming to secure equal rights for all citizens regardless of gender. In 1872, Anthony was arrested for voting in Rochester, New York, and fined, though she never paid the penalty. This event highlighted the legal barriers women faced and galvanized further activism.

If I had the opportunity to interview Susan B. Anthony, the three questions I would ask her would be:

- What motivated you to join and lead the women's suffrage movement?
- How did you handle opposition and setbacks, both personally and within the movement?
- Looking back, what would you consider your greatest accomplishment or the defining moment of your activism?

Imagining her responses to the specific questions about her views on feminism:

- Do you think of yourself as a feminist?

Anthony might respond affirmatively, as her life's work revolved around advocating for women's rights and equality. She could articulate that identifying as a feminist means striving for fair treatment and opportunities for women, aligning perfectly with her activism and beliefs.

- Is that good or bad?

Anthony would likely view being a feminist as a positive identification. She might argue that striving for justice and equality is morally right and necessary for societal progress. Her activism was rooted in a deep belief in the principles of justice and equality, indicative of how she might perceive the positive implications of feminism for improving women's lives and society at large.

Susan B. Anthony's contributions to social movements were profound, not only in terms of women's suffrage but also in influencing the broader discourse on human rights (Sapiro, 2020). Her strategic approach to activism, focus on legal change, and moral fortitude would provide rich insights into the challenges and successes of the women's movement during her time.

References

Barry, K. (2020). *Susan B. Anthony: A Biography*. NYU Press.

https://books.google.com/books?hl=en&lr=&id=0fvvDwAAQBAJ&oi=fnd&pg=PR7&dq=Anthony+dicated+much+of+her+life+to+women%27s+rights,+especially+the+right+to+vote&ots=B11D7_c-fY&sig=Me5baVk7237gdejDnuDCkXaIOZ8

Sapiro, V. (2020). The power and fragility of social movement coalitions: The woman suffrage movement to 1870. *BUL Rev.*, *100*, 1557.