

Unit 5 Journal Entry

The woman I picked from the Progressive Era is Alice Paul. Paul fought endlessly and aggressively for women's rights. Paul was well known during the Progressive ERA and actually wrote and proposed the Equal Rights Amendment to Congress in 1923; of course it wasn't until 1972 before it was reevaluated on the floor of the Congress. But nonetheless, Paul was a prevailing women's suffrage figure during the turn of the century. And, without her help (in parades and organizing women), the 19th Amendment may have never been ratified.

In comparing myself with Paul, I see many similarities; many that have to do with being successful, seeking education and fighting for what you believe in. What was she successful at? Paul had a Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania, was chairwoman of the Congressional Committee in Washington, DC, and was an activist fighting on the side of suffragists; along the way creating the NWP. She was an educated advocate for women's rights. I find myself in a long career, always seeking more education, and have been known to stand on the side of the employee rather than the side of the business.

But there are some differences as well. Of course she was a woman and I am a man; and that difference, alone, was quite significant at the turn of the century. Women were not afforded the same benefits as men. Paul also fought for something that many people disagreed with (women equality). I have been known to fight for things like better pay, or better benefits, though this was for men and women (that almost everyone agreed with). Paul fought for women and the rights they deserved.

If I had to ask Alice Paul a question, it would be, "Do you believe that all your hard work will eventually lead to 100% equality?"

I would ask this because it makes a difference of whether she was fighting for total, 100% equality, or was she fighting for small increments of progress.

I hope, and feel like, it would have been for 100% equality.