**19th Amendment -- Discussion Starter Questions**

1. What avenues did Virginia Minor use to fight for women’s right to vote?
2. What can student activists learn from Virginia Minor’s struggle for women’s right to vote?
3. What avenues did Mary Beth Tinker use to fight for the right to protest the Vietnam War at school?
4. What can students, who are not activists, learn from Mary Beth Tinker’s struggle for free speech?
5. Both Virginia Minor and Mary Beth Tinker worked within the legal system to make social change. Compare the steps on their respective paths through the courts and the outcome of each case at the Supreme Court of the United States.
6. Do all cases automatically go to the Supreme Court? How does someone get her case heard by the highest court in the land?
7. Even though Virginia Minor lost at the trial court level, the appellate court level, and the Supreme Court of the United States, how did her case spur the social change she sought?
8. Mary Beth Tinker lost at the trial court level, and the appellate level. Why do you think she tried again and asked the Supreme Court to review her case?
9. What do you think Virginia Minor would say to 16-year-olds who want to vote today?
10. What did you learn from Virginia Minor’s story that could be applied to getting the right to vote for 16-year-olds?
11. What would you like to say to Virginia Minor?
12. What does Mary Beth Tinker say when she speaks to students today?
13. What did you learn from Mary Beth Tinker’s story that could be applied to an issue that is important to you?
14. What would you like to say to Mary Beth Tinker?

**Virginia Minor’s Case**

*Minor v. Happersett (1875)*

**State Court System**

**3. Supreme Court of the United States – Lost**

**Washington, D.C.**

**2. Missouri Supreme Court -- Lost**

**State Court System**

**St. Louis, Missouri**

1. **Missouri Trial Court – Lost**

**State Court System**

**St. Louis, Missouri**

**Mary Beth Tinker’s Case**

*Tinker v. Des Moines (1969)*

**Federal Court System**

**3. Supreme Court of the United States – Won**

**Washington, D.C.**

1. **U.S. Court of Appeals – Lost**

**Federal Court System**

**8th Circuit Court of Appeals**

**St. Louis, Missouri**

1. **U.S. District Court – Lost**

**Federal Court System**

**Southern District of Iowa**

**Des Moines, Iowa**



