

ACTIVITY 3

I AM A SUFFRAGETTE

Suffragette Maud Watts (played by Carey Mulligan), the main character in this fall's stirring new Focus Features film, *Suffragette*, makes life-changing personal choices and risks her own safety to ensure that women's rights will be recognized and respected for generations to come.



Photo by AmoritaMaharaj

1. DISCOVERY

Watch the *Suffragette* trailer at www.SuffragetteTheMovie.com for a preview of Maud's journey from powerlessness to self-empowerment as she steadily deepens her commitment to the cause — by standing up for what's right, speaking out against what's wrong, and taking action to create change.

- A working-class wife and mother, Maud toils at a laundry with her husband, Sonny. One day, making a delivery, she gets caught up in a Suffragette protest and recognizes a co-worker among the agitators. Until that moment, Maud had little interest in the cause, but now she begins to see that it is really a struggle for women's dignity, both at home and in the workplace.
- Maud proves her commitment to the cause when she speaks in Parliament about the indignities she has suffered because of inequality, and again when she is arrested in the protest that follows Parliament's vote against women's rights. Returning home from her night in jail, Maud finds herself facing a husband who feels betrayed and neighbors who consider her a criminal.
- Maud's resolve is strengthened by Emmeline Pankhurst, the Suffragette leader, who emerges from hiding with an electrifying public speech that galvanizes her followers: "I incite the women of Britain to rebellion....Never surrender. Never give up the fight." Answering the call, Maud becomes an activist in the struggle, determined to force change.

2. DISCUSSION

- Do you agree with the tactics used by Maud Watts and the Suffragettes? Would you have acted in a similar fashion? Why or why not?
- Identify modern-day crusaders who have taken radical steps to promote their cause. Do you consider their actions justified? effective?
- Discuss how social media can be mobilized to promote change. To what extent can social media provide an avenue for action? In what ways can social media strengthen personal commitment?
- Identify a social issue that is important to you. Consider why you are especially drawn to this issue and to what lengths you are willing to go in order to see a positive change. Write and share a position statement that succinctly expresses your feelings about the issue and the change you'd like to see. Will you post your position statement on social media? Why or why not?
- Continue the Suffragette movement for equality in today's world. Go to FightsNotOver.com



Photo by Slowking4

SUFFRAGETTE

MOTHERS DAUGHTERS REBELS

Movie Website: SuffragetteTheMovie.com

Social Action Website: FightsNotOver.com

Social Action Essay Contest Website: <http://suffragette-myvoice.com>

IN THEATERS THIS FALL