Liberalism

*We are in the nineteenth century. Both politicians and society discuss either an extension of the right to vote or universal suffrage. You will represent a political ideology in this debate.*

Steps

* You will start in a group that represents the same ideology.
* Read the information about your ideology solo.
* Answer the reading questions with your group and discuss your standpoints on suffrage.
* Switch to mixed groups. Decide who is the timekeeper.
* You have 30 seconds each to defend your standpoint, then you can debate and make deals.
* Ultimately, you will vote on the following to make a new law.
  + Only male taxpayers can vote.
  + Only men who can read and write can vote.
  + Only men who have a wife and children can vote.
  + All men can vote.
  + Both men and women can vote.
  + There is a chance you also have to vote on the funding of religious schools.
* **Sadly, because it is the nineteenth century, feminists can join the debate, but they will not have a vote.**

Liberalists believe that the freedom of the individual leads to a better society. The government should not make too many rules and only play a small role in the lives of people. Liberalists fought for the separation of church and state. The highest power should namely be to the citizens. Liberalists also find it important that everybody is equal under the law. However, this does not mean that everyone is equal in daily life, because liberalists do not agree with the spreading of wealth. Liberalists believe that the weak of society should not be protected by the government but by themselves.

For the most part of the debate on universal suffrage, liberalists also believed that the right to vote did not have to be equal. Liberalists found it important that suffrage was only given to those who could pay taxes and were able to read and write. Up until the end of the nineteenth century they were willing to compromise on giving the vote to richer workers, but not to the poorest. This did not only have ideological reasons, but also tactical: poor workers would not vote for the liberalists and they would lose power in parliament. In this line, liberalists did not support women’s suffrage because they did not have financial independence. Finally, liberalists were not in support of the funding of religious schools because they thought the government had to meddle as little as possible with society.

Reading questions, answer in your notebook.

1. What is the ideological core of your -ism? Describe in one sentence.
2. What is your core standpoint on the right to vote?
3. Discuss your standpoints for all the voting options described above.
4. On what are you willing to compromise? On what absolutely not? (You can determine your own strategy).
5. How will you convince the other parties from your standpoints?

Confessionalism

*We are in the nineteenth century. Both politicians and society discuss either an extension of the right to vote or universal suffrage. You will represent a political ideology in this debate.*

Steps

* You will start in a group that represents the same ideology
* Read the information about your ideology solo.
* Answer the reading questions with your group and discuss your standpoints on suffrage.
* Switch to mixed groups. Decide who is the time keeper.
* You have 30 seconds each to defend your standpoint, then you can debate and make deals.
* Ultimately, you will vote on the following to make a new law. All of the options will lead to an extension of the right to vote.
  + Only male tax payers can vote.
  + Only men who can read and write can vote.
  + Only men who have a wife and children can vote.
  + All men can vote.
  + Both men and women can vote.
* **Sadly, because it is the nineteenth century, feminists can join the debate but they will not have a vote.**

Confessionalists are Christians that think that the country should be ruled from a religious viewpoint. They believe that God has a plan for the world and this plan should be followed to rule the country. In the Netherlands, the confessionalists were called the Anti-Revolutionary Party because they were in favour of tradition. The main political goal of the confessionalists was to get government funding for their own religious schools. The confessionalists also found it important that the voices of the ‘small citizens’ were heard and therefore, were in favour of an extension of the right to vote because they thought it would be right to give more people the vote but also because they would get more votes from people who did not have a say right now.

However, confessionalists were not in favour of complete men’s suffrage and especially not of women’s suffrage. They believed that God had the highest power in a democracy, not the people. A good alternative to them was to extend the vote to all men who had a wife and children – the family was namely the structure of God. They were willing to compromise, but only if they would get funding of their religious schools in return. If socialists would support the schools, confessionalists were also willing to strike a deal and vote for full men’s suffrage.

Reading questions, answer in your notebook.

1. What is the ideological core of your -ism? Describe in one sentence.
2. What is your core standpoint on the right to vote?
3. Discuss your standpoints for all the voting options described above.
4. On what are you willing to compromise? On what absolutely not? (You can determine your own strategy).
5. How will you convince the other parties from your standpoints?

Socialism

*We are in the nineteenth century. Both politicians and society discuss either an extension of the right to vote or universal suffrage. You will represent a political ideology in this debate.*

Steps

* You will start in a group that represents the same ideology
* Read the information about your ideology solo.
* Answer the reading questions with your group and discuss your standpoints on suffrage.
* Switch to mixed groups. Decide who is the time keeper.
* You have 30 seconds each to defend your standpoint, then you can debate and make deals.
* Ultimately, you will vote on the following to make a new law.
  + Only male tax payers can vote.
  + Only men who can read and write can vote.
  + Only men who have a wife and children can vote.
  + All men can vote.
  + Both men and women can vote.
* **Sadly, because it is the nineteenth century, feminists can join the debate but they will not have a vote.**

Socialists believe that a perfect society can be made if the government focuses on making everybody more equal. At the beginning of the age of citizens and steam engines, the government did not bother to protect the poor, which had always been a task for the church or through donations from private benefactors. Socialists wanted the government to reduce the difference between rich and poor by regulating the capitalistic free market and reducing exploitation by factory owners. Labourers should be protected through laws and have more rights. Socialists fought for social laws that would solve the social issue that led to fewer working hours, minimum wages and financial help for people who were old or unable to work.

For this reason, socialists believed in suffrage without any restrictions. If all men could vote, socialists would get stronger in their struggle against those who had the most money and power and they would be able to make better social laws. Additionally, they would get more votes because those who were excluded from the right to vote were mostly poor labourers. Socialists were thus strongly opposed to the restriction on suffrage where only tax payers could vote, especially because those working in the factories earned so little that they could never pay enough taxes. Men’s suffrage was the priority of socialists, but under pressure from feminist groups, they were willing to fight for universal suffrage as well. Additionally, because the right to vote was so important to socialists, they were willing to strike a deal with the confessionalists to vote for government funding of religious schools in turn for universal suffrage.

Reading questions, answer in your notebook.

1. What is the ideological core of your -ism? Describe in one sentence.
2. What is your core standpoint on the right to vote?
3. Discuss your standpoints for all the voting options described above.
4. On what are you willing to compromise? On what absolutely not? (You can determine your own strategy).
5. How will you convince the other parties from your standpoints?

Feminism

*We are in the nineteenth century. Both politicians and society discuss either an extension of the right to vote or universal suffrage. You will represent a political ideology in this debate.*

Steps

* You will start in a group that represents the same ideology
* Read the information about your ideology solo.
* Answer the reading questions with your group and discuss your standpoints on suffrage.
* Switch to mixed groups. Decide who is the time keeper.
* You have 30 seconds each to defend your standpoint, then you can debate and make deals.
* Ultimately, you will vote on the following to make a new law.
  + Only male tax payers can vote.
  + Only men who can read and write can vote.
  + Only men who have a wife and children can vote.
  + All men can vote.
  + Both men and women can vote.
* **Sadly, because it is the nineteenth century, feminists can join the debate but they will not have a vote.**

In 1871 Aletta Jacobs was the first woman to be allowed to study at university. For this, she had to get permission from minister Thorbecke himself. In 1878, Jacobs earned her diploma and became the first female doctor in the Netherlands. She dedicated her knowledge and skills to increasing the chances for women to study and to better healthcare. Jacobs worked in a poor neighbourhood in Amsterdam where she put her efforts towards women’s rights.

Those who fight for women’s rights are called feminists. Feminists believe that men and women are equal and so they should have the same rights, such as the right to vote. In the Netherlands, women did not have financial independence from their fathers or husbands, meaning that they could make very few decisions about their own lives. Yet, due to the Industrial Revolution a lot of women worked in the factories and made sure their families had enough money. Therefore, women thought it would only be fair if they had a say in society at large. Feminists wanted active vote rights to determine who would make the laws of the country, but also passive vote rights to use their voice in parliament for the first time. Feminists did not have a chance to vote in parliament about the extension of the right to vote, so that meant that they had to convince politicians in other situations. They were able to strike a deal with socialists to support their party if they would support universal suffrage in return.

Reading questions, answer in your notebook.

1. What is the ideological core of your -ism? Describe in one sentence.
2. What is your core standpoint on the right to vote?
3. Discuss your standpoints for all the voting options described above.
4. On what are you willing to compromise? On what absolutely not? (You can determine your own strategy).
5. How will you convince the other parties from your standpoints?