

Rights and Responsibilities in Arizona History

National History Day 2025 Topic Ideas from the Historical League

The Historical League Inc. has a collection of 89 stories of prominent Arizonans who have contributed to Arizona. These Arizona Historymakers™ are men and women who have distinguished themselves with noted achievements in such diverse areas as the arts, athletics, communications, community service, education, and entertainment. Stories include primary sources of portraits, photographs, oral history transcripts, and video documentaries. Secondary sources of short biographies are also present. Collection is located at www.HistoricalLeague.org.

Following are topic ideas for 2025 National History Day students developing projects with the theme *Rights and Responsibilities in History*.

Who had the right to hold elected office in Arizona?

The original Arizona Constitution adopted with statehood in 1912 stated elected state officials needed to be male. Edwynne "Polly" Cutler Rosenbaum along with seven female colleagues were successful in eliminating the word "male" without needing a constitutional amendment. Primary Sources can be found for Arizona Historymaker™ Edwynne Polly Cutler Rosenbaum at <https://www.historicalleague.org/historymakers/edwynne-polly-cutler-rosenbaum>.

Who had the right to speak freely and responsibly?

Journalist and outdoor enthusiast Ben Avery covered legislative news building relationships with legislators, governors, judges and citizens. He was a consensus builder serving or leading community committees. He responsibly helped to identify and solve problems on water, gun safety, cattle, land use, wildlife management, and bug inspection. Primary Sources can be found for Arizona Historymaker™ Ben Avery at <https://www.historicalleague.org/historymakers/ben-avery>.

Who exercised human rights?

Arizona Historymaker U.S. Senator Barry Goldwater demonstrated human rights and social responsibility when he befriended Navajo and Hopi Natives. During the Vietnam War, he also connected active military with their families through his ham radio.

<https://www.historicalleague.org/historymakers/barry-morris-goldwater>

The Senator was a Ham: Barry Goldwater and Amateur Radio

<https://youtu.be/tufY6s8KJBc?si=loR5WTPSmnLrz6ox>

Barry Goldwater: Photographs and Memories

<https://youtu.be/PmdQJyZWivU?si=rTIXKvy9bRvqJIu>

Do adults with autism have a social right to independent housing?

Arizona Historymaker Denise Resnik has founded First Place® AZ and its Global Leadership Institute to create a new generation of housing and community options for adults with autism and other neurodiversities.

<https://www.historicalleague.org/historymakers/denise-d-resnik>

Who has the right to ask the government to make a change?

Arizona Historymaker Terry Goddard has used the freedom of the petition process to create citizen requested changes in government.

- Phoenix City government changed from at large elected council to district system with council members representing specific areas of city
- Petitioned voters' approval or not of freeway gutting historic neighborhood
- Citizen petition approval on need to disclose sources of dark money influencing political decisions

<https://www.historicalleague.org/historymakers/terry-goddard>

U.S. Constitution, First Amendment <https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/bill-of-rights-transcript>

Do educational institutions have a social right to define admission standards to their schools?

The responsibility of educational institutions is to make education available without discriminating based on prohibited criteria. Arizona Historymaker Justice Sandra Day O'Connor helped establish the extent of those rights and responsibilities. Primary Source opinions can be found at Sandra Day O'Connor Institute for American Democracy.

<https://oconnorinstitute.org/supreme-court-opinions/>

Of Justice O'Connor's 645 opinions rendered over 24 years on the Supreme Court, many are related to education.

<https://www.historicalleague.org/historymakers/sandra-day-oconnor>

Who had the right to deny citizenship to Japanese Americans during WWII and why?

William Bill Masao Kajikawa, 1993 Arizona Historymaker, and his family felt the effects of this denial.

- In-laws were in internment camp in Santa Anita Racetrack while their 3 sons were in 442nd Regiment in Italy; two were killed; third son sent home
- Bill, employed at ASU, and his wife Margaret had boundaries where they could travel in Tempe
- Bill served in the U.S. Army's 442nd Regimental Combat Team in North Africa, a unit

comprised entirely of Japanese Americans.

<https://www.historicalleague.org/historymakers/william-bill-masao-kajikawa>

U.S. Constitution, Amendment 14 <https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/amendments-11-27>

Who had the right to refuse service to black members of a visiting college football team?

Coach Bill Kajikawa of Arizona State College football team was told blacks wouldn't be seated and served in dining room of restaurants.

<https://www.historicalleague.org/historymakers/william-bill-masao-kajikawa>

Journal of Arizona History, New Directions in Arizona Sport History, Winter 2021, Volume 62, Number 4

U.S. Constitution, Amendment 14 and subsequent Civil Rights Laws

<https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/amendments-11-27>

During WWII, who determined the right to live?

How did Arizona Historymaker Morrison Warren determine that race was not the only reason for discrimination?

Before driving a general into Buchenwald at end of WWII, Dr. Warren said he thought the main problem was black and white racial issues, but seeing the murdered Jewish people, he realized it was man's inhumanity to man. He determined he would focus on being a bridge-builder between people and issues.

<https://www.historicalleague.org/historymakers/morrison-f-warren>

Who exercised human rights?

Alfredo Gutierrez, Arizona Historymaker –In 1968 after he picketed for the Mexican laundry workers, he was forced out of the university; in 2024 he completed the required hours at Arizona State University and received his degree.

<https://www.historicalleague.org/historymakers/alfredo-gutierrez>

What basic rights were denied the Navajo Code Talkers during and after World War II?

During WWII, Navajo Code Talkers were critical in winning the war in the Pacific. Following the war, they were forbidden from speaking about their contributions until 1968; some of them were prevented from voting until the 1965 Voting Rights Act. Primary sources can be found at:

<https://www.historicalleague.org/historymakers/sam-billison-navajo-code-talker>

<https://www.historicalleague.org/historymakers/carl-gorman-navajo-code-talker>

<https://www.historicalleague.org/historymakers/merril-sandoval-navajo-code-talker>

<https://www.historicalleague.org/historymakers/joe-h-kellwood-navajo-code-talker>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cVqrnnhN9cc>

U.S. Constitution, Amendment 16, and Voting Rights of 1965
<https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/amendments-11-27>

Who has the rights and responsibilities to control groundwater issues in Arizona?

Bruce Babbitt, Arizona Historymaker: As governor, Bruce Babbitt was responsible for establishing the Arizona Department of Water Resources. He was interested in the conservation and allocation of water. Primary sources can be found at:
<https://www.historicallleague.org/historymakers/bruce-babbitt>

Who has the Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination?

According to a decision by U.S. Supreme Court in *Miranda v. Arizona et al*, law enforcement officials must advise a suspect interrogated in custody of their rights to remain silent and to obtain an attorney at no charge if needed.

How have individuals used their rights to carry out their responsibilities?

How did Dorothea Lange use her skills as a photographer to raise awareness of the migrant farmworker life during the Great Depression?

Dorothea Lange was a documentary photographer whose portraits of displaced farmers during the Great Depression greatly influenced the public. During her travels for the Farm Security Administration, she made three trips to Chandler, Arizona to bring the conditions of the rural poor to the public's attention.

How have worker's rights been established?

How did the Bisbee Deportation of 1917 affect the labor movement in Arizona?

The Bisbee Deportation was the illegal kidnapping and deportation of about 1,300 mine workers, their supporters, and innocent bystanders by the sheriff of Cochise County. The men were herded into cattle cars and driven 200 miles to New Mexico. There they were ordered never to come back to Bisbee. The result was that the growing labor movement was crushed in mining cities across Arizona.

What are the rights of a U.S. Citizen?

What were the effects on the United States of Mexican American U.S. citizens being repatriated and deported during the Great Depression 1929-1939?

In the Mexican Repatriation (1929-1939) the U.S. repatriated a million of its own citizens to Mexico during the Great Depression, most of them American born. In Arizona there was little organized repatriation, but deportees from other areas traveled through our border stations.

U.S. Constitution Amendment 14 and subsequent Civil Rights Laws

<https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/amendments-11-27>

How have the rights of child workers been established in Arizona?

Children do not have the right to vote and are at the mercy of adults when it comes to labor. Extreme child labor lasted until the 1930's in Arizona. From the Territorial Legislature to the present time, the issue of child labor has remained a contentious issue.

A territorial law of 1891 was passed by the Territorial Legislature of Arizona. This law stated that children under the age of twelve could not be employed in underground workings of mines. Later, the age of 15 became the age at which children could be employed in hazardous occupations. The Constitutional Convention discussed child labor when Arizona was asking to become a state.

Before Arizona statehood who had the right to vote in political elections?

Arizonans leading women's suffrage include Rachel Berry, Pauline O'Neil, Josephine Brawley Hughes, and Frances Willard Munds.

Arizona Women's Hall of Fame's website has short biographies and photographs of inductees which may be a source of topic ideas for *Rights and Responsibilities in Arizona History*. <https://www.azwhf.org/inducted-women-by-name> AWHF honors, celebrates, and preserves the stories of exceptional women. Following is a partial list of Arizona women in government which could be a source of *Rights and Responsibilities* topics:

Lorraine Weiss Frank – Az Humanities

Ana Frohmiller – state auditor for 24 years

Margaret Hance – Phoenix Mayor

Maie Bartlett Heard – Activist for Statehood and Phoenix philanthropist

Isabella Greenway King – Arizona's first congresswoman, published letters with Eleanor Roosevelt

Lorna Lockwood- first woman chief justice

Rose Mofford - state's first woman secretary of state from 1977 to 1988 and the state's first woman governor from 1988 to 1991

Frances Willard Munds - first woman state senator in Arizona and the second in the United States, suffrage

Janet Ann Napolitano – distinguished politician, lawyer, and university administrator who served as the 21st governor of Arizona from 2003 to 2009

Justice Sandra Day O'Connor - first woman Justice of the United States Supreme Court

Jacque Yelland Steiner – AZ senator, instrumental in many legislative, budgetary, and operational advancements for Arizona's children, tackling such complex issues as child abuse and neglect, foster care, adolescent issues, juvenile justice reform, and overall budget and policy issues in the children and family service delivery system

Annie Dodge Wauneka - Navajo Tribal Council, worked for bigger and better schools built on the reservation; she worked for better housing and water development for sanitation as well as crop irrigation, and health issues like TB, infant mortality.

Answering the following questions could lead a student to possible NHD topics for *Rights and Responsibilities in History*.

- When women received the right to vote, did that include Black and indigenous women? Why? When was this resolved and how?
- Which of the Bill of Rights relates to the rights of students under the age of 18, and which case studies have decided this?
- Under the 15th amendment Congress and the States were prohibited from denying or abridging the citizen's right to vote on account of race, color or previous condition of servitude. What ways were used to circumvent this amendment? "Jim Crow Laws," women's inequality, Indigenous not considered citizens. What laws, treaties, etc. were used to address this.
- What rights are guaranteed to indigenous peoples living on reservations and under what authority? Is this true with the individuals off the reservations in the various states.
- If every person under the 14th amendment has equal protection under the law, what are some reasons this has not always been true and what is an example of a case or Supreme Court decision that has attempted to rectify this?
- It took over 15 years for Arizona to grant women the right to vote. What were some of the arguments against this over the years, and who were the women that pushed this through?

Possible sources:

<https://oconnorinstitute.org> (Civic Education)

<https://civics.archives.org>

www.azwhf.org (Josephine Brawley Hughes, Frances Munds, Pauline O'Neill, Isabella Greenway King, Polly Rosenbaum, Lorna Lockwood, Sandra Day O'Connor)