

## Abstract Sample

**Title** - A Rhetorical Analysis on Carrie Catt in the Women's Suffrage Movement

**Program of Study** – M.A. Communication

**Presentation Type** – Choose one of the following: Oral Presentation

**Subtype** – Choose one of the following for poster or oral presentation types: Applied

**Mentor(s) and Mentor Email** - Chair - Dr. Cecil Kramer (cvkramer@liberty.edu), Co-Chair Dr. Marie Mallory (mmallory13@liberty.edu), Co-Chair: Dr. Navarro (cnavarro13@liberty.edu)

**Student name(s) and email(s)** - Sarah Perkins ([sperkins20@liberty.edu](mailto:sperkins20@liberty.edu))

### **Abstract example:**

During the Women's Suffrage movement, suffragists faced an unprecedented challenge from men and women alike in which their motives, attitudes, and beliefs were questioned. Women had to learn to identify with the men of their time in order to persuade that women should have the equal right to vote.

In 1878 the women's suffrage amendment was proposed to Congress. However, when taken into the Senate in 1887, it was defeated. After continual defeat, in 1890, the progressive era of women's suffrage began and became the mainstream political race, but in order to ratify the 19th amendment into the constitution, thirty-six state legislatures needed to pass it. This meant that women were fighting state to state in order to persuade men to pass the amendment.

In my research, I will be analyzing the rhetoric of two speeches delivered by suffragist and president of the NWSA (National Women's Suffrage Association), Carrie Chapman Catt. I will be analyzing one speech delivered to women focusing on their communal fight and one speech delivered to men in Congress. Using Kenneth Burke's Identification Theory and Deborah Tannen's Genderlect Theory, I will study the persuasiveness of the two speeches and how her rhetoric changed between the audience's gender. I will also be studying how her language to men encouraged them to change their vote towards suffrage.

### **Christian worldview integration:**

My philosophical paradigm for this research study is done from a Christian worldview of gender roles and feminism. The way I am framing the problem, solution, and results may be quite different from one from a secular research worldview. Not everyone shares the same paradigm as I do, so it is only ethical that I describe mine and the way I approach the study.

What it means to be a woman, and even the very definition of a woman, is ever-changing in today's society. Throughout Biblical text, we see The Lord use women in miraculous ways through their leadership, sensitivity to others, and courage. Proverbs 31:11-12 tells us that, "(a woman's) husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value. She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life."

What I admire about Carrie Chapman Catt is that she stayed true to her feminine ways while an entire society was telling her to do the opposite. Catt led the The National Women's Suffrage Association to create tactics that were strongly feminine in nature. These women wanted to prove they did not need to act like a man to identify with a man. They would wear flowers in their hair, write cookbooks, and speak softly to maintain their feminine

flavor and fought delicately. With the many waves of feminism, it is important for Christian women to not only know their history, but where they stand on the issue of feminism today. I believe that The Lord created men and women different and that is something to be celebrated, not ostracized.