The Women’s Liberation Movement

I. The 1960s saw a resurgence of feminism, the belief that women had the right to participate in all aspects of society. The women’s movement in the 1960s sought to change aspects of American life that had been accepted for decades. More women had begun to achieve higher levels of education, and many wanted the same employment opportunities available to men. Rising awareness of the degree to which women were denied opportunities.

Origins of the Modern Women’s Liberation Movement

I. Betty Freidan's *The Feminine Mystique* (1963) - asked women if they were truly happy and fulfilled. The answer was that many women felt trapped and limited by strict gender roles. The book helped focus attention on continued need for women’s equality.

II. The *Civil Rights Movement* also inspired the women’s movement. Women who worked for civil rights applied the skills they had gained working for civil rights to the women’s movement. FOR EXAMPLE?

III. Civil Rights Laws of the 1960s

   a. **Equal Pay Act, 1963:**
      i. In 1963 the average female worker in the United States earned _____% less than the average male worker’s earnings.
      ii. The Equal Pay Act was the first federal law prohibiting _______________________________. It abolished pay differences based on sex.
      iii. By 1971, pay differences had dropped to _____% and in 2005, the wage gap had closed to under _____%.

   b. **Civil Rights Act of 1964:**
      i. Banned discrimination on the basis of color, race, national origin, religion, or sex.
      ii. SIGNIFICANCE: recognized that sex and race were being used in parallel ways to deny people equal opportunity. MEANING WHAT?

Challenges

I. In spite of the various civil rights laws, many employers ignored the law.

II. Few women were able to find jobs other than as _______________________________. Those who did earned less than men made at the same job.

III. School history books failed to recognize women’s role in shaping society. (In one 1972 textbook, only _____% of the ____ people mentioned were women.)
Women began forming groups dedicated to increasing awareness of women’s situation in society.

I. National Organization for Women (NOW)
   a. In 1966, a group of professional women, including Betty Friedan, formed the National Organization for Women (NOW).
      i. Statement of Purpose: “The purpose of NOW is to take action to bring women into full participation in the mainstream of American society now, exercising all the privileges and responsibilities thereof in truly equal partnership with men.” MEANING?
   b. Lobbied government, filed lawsuits, staged rallies and marches
   c. Betty Friedan became the organization’s first president.

II. Ms. magazine
   b. Unlike other women’s magazines of the time which ran articles on beauty and housekeeping tips, Ms. covered topics like gender bias, sexual harassment, feminist protest of pornography, and political candidates’ stances on women’s issues.

III. Women in Politics
   a. Equal Rights Amendment (ERA):
      i. Promised ________________________________ for men and women in all spheres, not just employment.
      ii. In 1972, Congress approved passage of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) to the Constitution. This amendment would make discrimination based on a person’s sex illegal.
      iii. Although the ERA was at first highly supported, it failed to gain ratification by the necessary number of states and was, therefore, not added to the Constitution.
   b. Roe v. Wade (1973): On March 3, 1970, attorneys Linda Coffee and Sarah Weddington challenged the ban on abortion in court. They represented a 23-year-old pregnant ticket seller named Norma McCorvey, who had been raped and wanted to end her pregnancy. McCorvey lived in TX, where state law prohibited abortion. To protect her privacy, McCorvey used the name Jane Roe in court.
      i. For two years the case worked its way through the courts.
      ii. On Jan. 22, 1973, the Supreme Court established a ________________________________ based on her constitutional right to _________________________________. The decision also identified the fetus as a “potential life,” not a person. As such, the Court said it had no rights of its own.
      iii. Roe v. Wade struck down anti-abortion bans in _______ states.

IV. Women in Sports - Title IX
   a. Before Title IX was passed, women were underrepresented in athletics, and funding for females in sports was much less than males.
   b. Title IX forced all federally funded institutions, (high schools, universities and colleges,) to have ______________________________ both in the classroom and on the playing field.
   c. It was hoped that Title IX would end sex discrimination, especially in athletic programs, and also increase the amount of opportunities and participation for females in athletics.