



Response for SCA

Women's Suffrage in Scotland – A Dramatic Reading

In 2018 archivists from National Records of Scotland (NRS) researched and curated an exhibition to celebrate the centenary of the Representation of the People Act 1918, which gave some women the right to vote. To produce this exhibition a great deal of research was conducted into the history of the women's suffrage movement in Scotland and how this is represented in NRS' archives.

As part of a series of legacy materials being created from this research, a learning workshop for secondary schools was proposed. In order to help the students understand the material and participate in learning about this period, we wanted to include a more interactive element. Past experience has shown us that although students are capable of understanding the material presented, there is often a hesitancy to speak or ask questions in front of their class. By introducing interactive, dramatic elements we hope to make it easier for them to speak up, and to absorb the information presented.

With no previous experience of using dramatic techniques in school workshops, we asked Douglas Roberts for assistance in designing a workshop on women's suffrage that could be adapted during delivery to take into account the response of the group to the proposed activities. With Douglas' knowledge and experience of using theatrical techniques in school learning, he helped create a framework that allows the workshop to be broken up into several, self-contained blocks that can be added and subtracted as required. We now have a workshop in draft form that demonstrates different dramatic methods using the research material compiled

Our next challenge will be piloting this workshop to see how students respond, and to learn how to deliver dramatic activities ourselves.