Primary sources can come in several forms: personal papers like journals and diaries, and first-hand accounts of events are just a few examples of primary sources. Newspaper articles can also be examples of primary sources. In this activity, students can analyze a newspaper article written by Madeline McDowell Breckinridge and published in *Lexington Herald* in November of 1915.
Wallace's than passing
stages: first, medical men
of themselves, use
for their own. They
serve well the
needs of the
age. The
naturally growing
recession. They
are pure food, pure
bottled beverages
and services by ana-
lyst. Just what these
patent medicines
may be to know more.
Prevention is becom-
ing wise; it pays.
less hold
patent medicine
medicines, soaps and
herb pills and tablets
and their
medicinal value to
fit to their best form for
medical
prevention.
then correct living and sanitary protec-
tion.

Equal Rights Association

The following open letter has been
sent to Governor McCreary by the
campaign chairman of the Kentucky
Equal Rights Association:

Lexington, Ky., Nov. 15, 1915.
Governor James D. McCreary,
Frankfort, Ky.

My Dear Governor McCreary:
The morning paper states that you
have appointed a committee to inter-
est the women of this state in the
program of "Preparedness" outlined
by President Wilson. The committee
named consists of some eighteen
Kentucky women.

Does it strike you as consistent that
you should expect the women of Ken-
tucky to have any interest in or any
voice in the war plans of the whole
country, while you deny them a voice
in its government? If your eyes are
open to the functions of government that are
naturally men's, they must be those
of offense and defense. The most
ancient and honorable argument of
the anti-suffrage is that women can not
fight and therefore should not vote. And
surely no man who feels that women
should have no voice in deciding
whether war is to be made or not, can
feel that any part of the burden of
war or the preparation of war should be
thrown upon women—not even the burden of forming public opinion to that end. What have wom-
men to do with public opinion anyhow?

We suffragists of course know that
it is impossible for men, however much
they would, to prevent the burden of
war from falling upon women, or to
declare war on the whole people in taxation, even
difficult as well as men. We know that.
Every state and every country in time of war
is in time of peace most and should
have the help of its women. But for men
who deny women the vote, even
even to take one exception on this
question is dangerous.

Do you remember that the last Leg-
islature, a Democratic legislature, de-
faulted the bill for submission of women
suffrage to the voters? And that the
same legislature failed to appropriate
private funds for a Kentucky building at the Panama
Exposition? Therefore you appointed
a commission to try to raise the funds
by private subscription, and this commission made
a special appeal to the women of the state to come to the
rescue and see that the
case was upheld. You appointed
the commission was men who had op-
posed the woman suffrage bill in the
legislature, and one man, in particular,
whom the women all remembered not
for the fact that he had opposed full
suffrage when offered, and school
suffrage for women through three pre-
vious sessions, but especially for the
inconceivable manner in which he had
opposed these measures. The women
did not respond to the appeal for
funds. Kentucky went without a build-
ing at the Exposition. She was one of
the few states unrepresented and un-
advertised, as I have heard Kentucky
visitors relate with mortification. Ken-
tucky women are not idiots—even
though they are closely related to
Kentucky men. You can't ignore them
and treat them as if they were kinder
saints than us, as you please to
say; it has amounted to about the
same thing since the world began, only
sometimes the women's share has
been and still is the heavier.

Wouldn't it be better for the Demo-
crats of Kentucky to wake up to the
fact that women are one-half the
people of Kentucky, that neither Ken-
tucky nor the nation can calmly
proceed without their help, and hereafter to
act it on a self-respecting basis. To
take the position of the anti-suffragist
that women do not need to protect
themselves because men perfectly pro-
tect them, and then at the first rum-
ors of war to call on them to do their part
in the plan for defense, is not really
self-respecting. Can't you see that you
and the Democrat who you
represent will give proof at the next
Legislature that you are no longer in
so inconsistent a position?

Sincerely yours,

MADELINE MCD. BROCKCHURCH
Campaign Chairman Kentucky Equal
Rights Association.
Open Letter Sent Governor by Campaign Chairman of Equal Rights Association

The following open letter has been sent to Governor McCreary by the campaign chairman of the Kentucky Equal Rights Association:

Lexington, Ky., Nov. 12, 1915.

Governor James B. McCreary,

Frankfort, Ky.

My Dear Governor McCreary,

The morning paper states that you have appointed a committee to interest the women of this state in the program of “Preparedness” outlined by President Wilson. The committee named consists of some eighty-five Kentucky women.

Does it strike you as consistent that you should expect the women of Kentucky to have any interest in or any concern for the preparedness of their country, while you deny them a voice in its government? If there are any functions of government that are purely masculine they must surely be those of offense and defense. The most ancient and honorable argument of the antis is that women can not fight and therefore should not vote. And surely no man who feels that women should have no voice in deciding whether war is to be made or not, can feel that any part of the burden of war or the preparedness therefor should be thrown upon women – not even the burden of forming public opinion to that end. What have women to do with public opinion anyhow?

We suffragists of course know that it is impossible for men, however much they would, to prevent the burden of war from falling upon women, or the burden of preparedness from falling on the whole people in taxation, women well as men. We know that every state and every country in time of war as in time of peace must and should have the help of its women. But for men who deny women the vote, even to take one eye out of the sand on this question is dangerous.
Do you remember that the last Legislature, a Democratic legislature, defeated the bill for submission of woman suffrage to the voters And that the same legislature failed to appropriate for a Kentucky building at the Panama Exposition? Thereafter you appointed a commission to try to raise the funds for such a building by private subscription, and this commission made a special and wide-spread appeal to the women of the state to come to the rescue and see that the dignity of Kentucky was upheld. You appointed on the commission men who had opposed the woman suffrage bill in the legislature, and one man, in particular, whom the women all remember not only for the fact that he had opposed full suffrage when offered and school suffrage for women through three previous sessions, but especially for the inexcusable manner in which he had opposed these measures. The women did not respond to the appeal for funds. Kentucky went without a building at the Exposition. She was one of the few states unrepresented and unadvertised, as I have heard Kentucky visitors report with mortification. Kentucky women are not idiots – even though they are closely related to Kentucky men. You can't ignore them and treat them as if they were kindergarten children, and then when work is needed expect them to do a man’s share – or a woman’s, as you please to state it; it has amounted to about the same thing since the world began, only sometimes the woman’s share has been and still is the heavier.

Wouldn’t it be better for the Democrats of Kentucky to wake up to the fact that women are one-half the people of Kentucky, that neither Kentucky nor the nation can get along without their help, and hereafter to ask it on a self-respecting basis. To take the position of the anti-suffragist that women do not need to protect themselves because men perfectly protect them, and then at the first rumor of war to call on them to do their part in the plans for defense, is not really self-respecting. Can't you assure me that you and the Democrats whom you represent will give proof at the next Legislature that you are no longer in so inconsistent a position?

Sincerely yours,

MADELINE McD. BRECKINRIDGE

Campaign Chairman Kentucky Equal Rights Association
Questions for Document Analysis

Reading Comprehension
1. On what day was this letter sent?
2. Who was the sender of this letter and who was the recipient?
3. Who was the President of the United States when this letter was written?
4. How many women in Kentucky were named to the state “Preparedness” program committee?
5. At what Exposition was there no Kentucky building?
6. According to the article, what part of the population did women represent in Kentucky?
7. What was Madeline McDowell Breckinridge’s job?

Historical Analysis
1. When McDowell Breckinridge mentions “antis” in her letter, who is she talking about?
2. What is a suffragist?
3. What is an anti-suffragist?

Discussion
1. How have women's' roles in society changed since this letter was written? How have they stayed the same?
2. Explain this quote: “You can’t ignore them and treat them as if they were kindergarten children, and then when work is needed expect them to do a man’s share.”
3. Knowing what you know from reading Madeline McDowell Breckinridge’s bio, what about her life made it easier to fight for women’s suffrage? What about her life made it more difficult?
Answers to Document Analysis Questions

Reading Comprehension
1. On what day was this letter sent?
   a. November 12, 1915
2. Who was the sender of this letter and who was the recipient?
   a. Sender: Madeline McDowell Breckinridge, Recipient: Governor James B. McCreary
3. Who was the President of the United States when this letter was written?
   a. Woodrow Wilson
4. How many women in Kentucky were named to the state “Preparedness” program committee?
   a. Eighty-five
5. At what Exposition was there no Kentucky building?
   a. The Panama Exposition
6. According to the article, what part of the people of Kentucky did women represent?
   a. One-half
7. What was Madeline McDowell Breckinridge’s job?
   a. Campaign Chairman of the Kentucky Equal Rights Association

Historical Analysis
1. When McDowell Breckinridge mentions “antis” in her letter, who is she talking about?
   a. Anti-suffragist
2. What is a suffragist?
   a. A person who advocates for voting rights, especially for women
3. What is an anti-suffragist?
   a. People who believed it was against the laws of nature for women to seek the vote

Discussion
4. How have women's’ roles in society changed since this letter was written? How have they stayed the same?
   a. Use this is an opportunity to discuss change over time. How far have we, as a society come? How far are we from reaching full equality? What milestones have been met? What milestones are women still yet to reach?
5. Explain this quote: “You can’t ignore them and treat them as if they were kindergarten children, and then when work is needed expect them to do a man’s share.”
   a. Give your students the opportunity to share their interpretations.
6. Knowing what you know from reading Madeline McDowell Breckinridge’s bio, what about her life made it easier to fight for women’s suffrage? What about her life made it more difficult?
   a. Her pursuit of this goal was made possible by her wealth and social status. Her physical limitations often held her back, however.