

STUDENT HANDOUT #1: Outline of Gloria Steinem's Life and Contributions

(2 pages)



1. Introduction

- o Gloria Steinem is a key figure in the feminist movement.
- o She advocated for women's rights and social justice.

2. Early Life

- o Born on March 25, 1934, in Toledo, Ohio to a family of Jewish lineage.
- o Early influences, including her mother's struggles and the impact of growing up in a turbulent home environment.
- o Education: Studied at Smith College and later at the University of India on a fellowship.

3. Career Beginnings

- o Worked as a journalist and writer in the 1960s.
- o Contributed to magazines like *New York Magazine*, where she gained recognition for her writing.
- o In 1968, wrote an expose on the Miss America Pageant that helped launch her into the public spotlight.

4. Feminist Activism

- o Co-founded *Ms. Magazine* in 1972, a groundbreaking publication that gave women a voice and focused on issues like reproductive rights, domestic violence, and workplace equality.
- o Advocated for reproductive rights; worked with the National Women's Political Caucus and the Women's Action Alliance.

5. Major Contributions

- o Played a pivotal role in the women's liberation movement of the 1960s and 1970s.
- o Pushed for legislation to ensure equal rights, including the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA).
- o Advocated for the inclusion of women in politics, education, and leadership roles.

6. Later Years and Continued Advocacy

- o Remained a public voice for women's issues, civil rights, and social justice.
- o Authored several books, including *My Life on the Road*, a memoir reflecting on her activism and travels.
- o Continued to speak out on issues such as intersectionality, racism, and global feminism.

7. Legacy and Recognition

- o Celebrated as a trailblazer for women's rights and a global symbol of feminist activism.
- o Received numerous awards, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2013.

8. Conclusion

- o Gloria Steinem's lasting influence on feminism and gender equality.
- o Her continued relevance in advocating for social justice issues today.