**Important Events in American Women’s History**

**1792**: Sarah Pierce established the first institution for higher education of women in America, the Litchfield Female Academy, in Litchfield, Connecticut.

**1848**: The Seneca Falls Convention was first held to discuss women's rights, in Seneca Falls, New York. The event included the signing of the first formal demand made in the United States for women’s right to vote.

**1849**: Elizabeth Blackwell became the first licensed female medical doctor in the United States. She received her medical degree from Geneva Medical College in New York at age 28.

**1869**: Wyoming Territory, which would not become a state until the following year, was the first to grant women the right to vote in all elections.

**1903**: Women’s Trade Union League was founded to support working women and to eliminate sweatshop conditions.

**1911**: The Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire in New York City, where 146 people (mostly women and teens) died, was the deadliest industrial disaster in the history of the city. The fire inspired the largest female strike to date, and by 1913 workplace safety protective legislation for workers.

**1916**: Jeannette Pickering Rankin was the first woman elected to Congress, winning a House of Representative seat in Montana.

**1920**: The Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution allowed women to vote. Though the campaign for women’s right to vote (suffrage) began in 1848, and the bill was originally introduced to Congress in 1878, it took 42 years of suffragist campaigning to pass.

**1921**: American Birth Control League was founded by Margaret Sanger to promote birth control clinics and encourage women to control their fertility. In 1942, the League became Planned Parenthood.

**1932**: Amelia Earhart made the first transcontinental nonstop flight by a woman. Her flight from Newfoundland, Canada, lasted 14 hours and 56 minutes, during which she dealt with battering winds, icy conditions, and mechanical problems. Earhart landed in a pasture in Northern Ireland.

**1960**: Enovid, the first birth-control pill, became available. At first the pill was prescribed exclusively to married women for menstrual cycle control.

**1962**: Rachel Carson, a research scientist, published her influential environmental book, *Silent Spring*, calling attention to the dangers of synthetic pesticides, which led to a nationwide ban on DDTand other pesticides.

**1963**: Congress prohibited employers from discriminating on the basis of sex by paying lower wages to women with The Equal Pay Act. (However, as of 2018, American women’s salaries have not risen to equal men’s. Called the wage gap, a woman earns 80.5 cents for every dollar that a man earns.)

**1963**: Betty Friedan’s book,*The Feminine Mystique*, launched the contemporary feminist movement.

**1973**: *Roe v. Wade* was a landmark decision by the U.S. Supreme Court that overturned state laws criminalizing or restricting access to abortions.

**1981**: Sandra Day O’Connor became the first woman appointed to the United States Supreme Court.

**1983**: Astronaut Sally Ride became the first American woman in space.

**1993**: The Supreme Court ruled that sexual harassment in the workplace is illegal and broadened the legal definition of a hostile work environment.

**1997**: Madeleine Albright, a career diplomat and politician, was sworn in as the first female United States Secretary of State, serving until 2001.

**2018:** A record number of women (118) are elected to Congress, including the youngest ever (age 28), the first Muslim woman, and the first two Native American women.

Answer the following question:

* Which event is the most important to you?
* Explain your answer