1. Thesis
From 1900-1920, protests by the National Woman's Party (NWP) at Lafayette Park in front of the White House significantly impacted the ratification of the 19th Amendment. The intentional use of Lafayette Park to communicate their concerns gained critical media attention and brought women's suffrage to the forefront of President Woodrow Wilson's agenda. This unique strategy established Lafayette Park as an essential location to exercise certain First Amendment Rights: Freedom of Speech, Freedom of Assembly, and Freedom of Press.

2. Historical Context (1836-1918)
From 1848-1900, women's suffrage activists lobbied, petitioned, and paraded as strategies to protest with limited success.

- "Women are a minority everywhere. They are denied the right to vote. It is their right to live as free as they please and to do as they please..." - Susan B. Anthony, On Woman's Right to Vote, 1872
- "If women are deprived of the right to vote, the government will be forever committed to the rule of the minority, the rule of the male minority..." - Jennifer Krathke, Trouble in Lafayette Square, 2016
- "The women's suffrage movement was a radical campaign to change the constitution. They believed that women were essential to democracy..." - Augustus Kollner, Suffragists Picketing the White House, 1917

3. Unwavering Protests (1916-1920)
By utilizing the First Amendment, suffragists like Alice Paul and Lucy Burns put direct pressure on the White House. Protesting at Lafayette Park, they forced President Wilson to respond to their voices.

- "We are not petites for ourselves, but Jacobins for all American women." - National Woman's Party, 1917
- "The Silent Sentinels engaged in nonviolent protest: instead of fighting with weapons, Alice Paul and the National Woman's Party fought with words and images." - Women's Auxiliary, Votes for Women, 1918
- "The words chosen for the banners were the backbone of the National Woman's Party protest. They wanted to communicate the urgency and determination behind their cause by using powerful words." - Woodrow Wilson, Message Regarding Women's Suffrage, 1917

4. Fighting with the Media
Suffragists held banners and signs during protests, creating photo opportunities to spread awareness. As planned, the photos, illustrated, and stories appeared in the nation's newspapers. The suffragists deliberately staged events at Lafayette Park to incense attention to their cause and expose force used against them.

- "The women choose for the banners the words that were the backbone of the National Woman's Party protest. They wanted to communicate the urgency and determination behind their cause by using powerful words." - Woodrow Wilson, Message Regarding Women's Suffrage, 1917
- "It is because women have seen visions of the future and we have a duty, and that is something which we not only see but see in living colors..." - President Lyndon B. Johnson to provide federal protection for demonstrators attached to the White House, 1965

5. Fighting the Status Quo
However, as the influence of the suffragists grew, anti-suffragists appeared. In 1917, the National Association Opposed to Women's Suffrage was founded by a group of anti-suffragists. Further, police arrested protestors, lawmakers refused to change laws, and judges confined protestors to mental institutions.

- "The day before the vote, one hundred white-clad women, in what was later to be called the 'suffragettes' tribe,' made their way to the White House..." - Susan B. Anthony, On Woman's Right to Vote, 1872
- "This is a day of action. We will refuse to move. If you arrest us, lock us up. But we will refuse to move..." - Alice Paul, Votes for Women, 1918

6. 19th Amendment (August 18, 1920)
On August 18, 1920, the 19th Amendment was ratified, allowing women the right to vote. The perseverance of the suffragists at Lafayette Park, as well as a national campaign and women serving in the U.S. military during WWI, helped to gain pivotal support for the ratification of the 19th Amendment.

- "The women's suffrage movement has been the most radical campaign to change the constitution. They believed that women were essential to democracy..." - Jennifer Krathke, Trouble in Lafayette Square, 2016
- "We women have been fighting for the right to vote for years..." - Alice Paul, Suffragettes Picketing the White House, 1917

7. Contemporary Legacy
The success of the suffragists has inspired other organizations to global protests at Lafayette Park. In 1965, Civil Rights activist advocated for President John F. Kennedy to provide federal protection for demonstrators attached to the White House. They set the stage for twentieth-century civil disobedience. In 1995, Athena Action Action Coalition at Lafayette Park, Power protested, asking President Bill Clinton for support on AIDS issues.

- "These movements, however, did not gain the right to vote for the 19th century..." - Jennifer Krathke, Trouble in Lafayette Square, 2016
- "Suffragists in Washington, D.C., and in the United States, have increasingly been attacked and arrested..." - White House Historical Association, Suffragists Picketing the White House, 1917

8. Conclusion
The NWP established Lafayette Park as a vital location to communicate with a national audience. Their success led to other efforts adopting similar tactics. The convenience of location has made it possible for activists to make a critical impact on American society's understanding of democratic issues. At the core, Americans need a stage to gain an audience, to communicate their understanding of their cause, and to express their First Amendment rights, which they are able to do at Lafayette Park.

- "Since then, countless men and women have been inspired by their women colleagues..." - Jennifer Krathke, Trouble in Lafayette Square, 2016
- "The women's suffrage movement was a radical campaign to change the constitution. They believed that women were essential to democracy..." - Jennifer Krathke, Trouble in Lafayette Square, 2016