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| 1. Annotate the article to show evidence of understanding and thinking. 2. Write a 1-page response that includes an introduction with a thesis, supporting body paragraphs, and a conclusion.  * Do you think it is important for women to be represented on America’s currency? Explain why. * Who would be your choice of a woman to place on the $20 bill? Explain why. * Pick another way to respond to the article. |

**A currency facelift**

By Editorial Board of the *Washington Post,* April 11, 2015

No woman is depicted on U.S. paper currency. This makes our money a bit exceptional among the banknotes of our international peers, several of which — including Britain, Canada, Australia, Japan and Mexico — have emblazoned paper money with various national heroines’ portraits. In this country, suffragist Susan B. Anthony and the Native American explorer Sacagawea grace little-used dollar coins, but it’s not quite the same. So an Internet movement calling itself “WomenOn20s” has started crowd-sourcing the selection of a proposed female replacement for President Andrew Jackson on the $20 bill — to be followed by an actual request for a substitution to President Obama. It might actually come to pass. Mr. Obama has expressed broad sympathy with the idea, and he has full legal authority, through the secretary of the Treasury, to order a redesign.

We’re for it — with a caveat or two. By now, the contributions of women to the United States’ history need no elaboration, but they are still insufficiently acknowledged in the paraphernalia of nationhood, such as paper money; the mostly presidential and entirely male white faces of which were selected in 1929. Our pick for a female addition would be Harriet Tubman, the courageous African American who escaped from slavery in Maryland, helped others do the same, served the Union as an intelligence agent during the Civil War and then, after the war, advocated women’s suffrage.

The $20 bill is a likely candidate for a change because, of the men on the four most widely circulated bills — George Washington on the $1, Abraham Lincoln on the $5, Alexander Hamilton on the $10 and Jackson — the latter’s reputation has undergone the greatest revision under modern scrutiny. Once unequivocally, and justly, lionized for victory at the Battle of New Orleans, for quelling the Nullification Crisis of 1832 and for leading a small-D democratic political movement, Old Hickory’s career nevertheless bears the taint of his cruel policy toward Native Americans.

Which brings us to our caveats: For all his flaws, Jackson’s ouster from the $20 could trigger a currency culture war between his defenders and detractors, potentially undermining the entire unifying spirit of the include-a-woman enterprise. It could also set off a cascade of controversies about the merits of everyone else on U.S. money. The solution is simple, really: add Tubman without subtracting Jackson. The government could issue the same number of 20’s as always, half bearing Tubman’s face, half Jackson’s. Another option is bills with two faces each; other countries have done so.

Of course, all of this must be done with due consideration for the fact that money is, well, money; design changes to the world’s most widely used, and most recognizable, currency must therefore protect its security and foster confidence in it around the world. Surely, though, these are superable obstacles. An appropriate representation of American women on the dollars they work so hard to earn should not be beyond the wit of man, or woman.

**Which of these four women should be on the $20 bill?**

By Jena McGregor, *Washington Post,* April 8, 2015

The group pushing to replace Andrew Jackson with a woman on the $20 bill has revealed its final four candidates after more than 256,000 votes were placed.

The four are former first lady Eleanor Roosevelt, abolitionist Harriet Tubman, civil rights activist Rosa Parks and Wilma Mankiller, the first woman elected chief of a major Native American tribe. Voting for the finalist is now open. The group behind the push, Women On 20s, has not yet set a specific end date for the final vote.

The group's original list of 100 names was winnowed down to 60 through informal discussion, then to 30 via a two-part survey and to 15 by a group of outsiders that included women's history experts. The public was then able to choose their three favorites from the list of 15 candidates, which also included feminist Betty Friedan, birth control activist Margaret Sanger, women's suffrage leader Susan B. Anthony and conservationist Rachel Carson.

Women On 20s revealed that the top three vote recipients — Roosevelt, Tubman and Parks — received more than 100,000 votes each. It also said on its Web site that Mankiller, who made the list of 30 but not the list of 15 that the public voted on, was selected for the final ballot "by popular demand" and "strong public sentiment that people should have the choice of a Native American to replace Andrew Jackson."

The group is targeting the $20 bill not only because the year 2020 will be the centennial of the 19th Amendment, which granted voting rights to women, but because Jackson helped pass the Indian Removal Act of 1830, which forced Native American tribes off their land in a relocation commonly referred to as the Trail of Tears.

Susan Ades Stone, the nonprofit group's executive director, said in an interview with The Post that they were not surprised by the three women whose names received the most votes.

"They are probably the most recognizable names, and the ones that have been taught, to some degree, in schools," Stone said. "But they are also all seen as heroic in some way. I think that's what people want: Someone who can be representative for women, who really is unequivocally someone who has touched everyone's lives."

Stone said the group hopes to approach the White House with their campaign within the next few weeks, and is working with some advisers to help them with that. She doesn't know yet whether they will wait to formally reach out to the White House until a winner is named. They may allow the voting to continue, in hopes White House support and attention could launch even more interest and voting.

"It's possible the president will want to hear from more people," Stone said. "We don't want to prematurely cut off people's opportunity to be heard."

The Treasury Department's Bureau of Engraving and Printing Web site says that the Treasury secretary is responsible for selecting the portraits that will appear on dollar bills. According to U.S. code, only a deceased individual may appear on U.S. currency.

Stone said they decided to approach the White House first, before going directly to Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew, because they think that's where the conversation about gender equality "will be amplified." She said they tried to stay close to the code and not propose anything that might trigger the involvement of Congress, such as proposing a new denomination of dollar bills or suggesting a trio of suffragette portraits. "We didn't want this to become a political football."

If the White House and Treasury actually do get behind the idea, Stone said, there would then be committees to choose the candidate and choose the design and engraving. "We're not under an illusion that whoever comes out as the winner of this referendum will [necessarily] be the person that will be on the bill," Stone said.

The men featured on current U.S. bills have not changed since 1929.