

HANDOUT B

Equality Quotes

Directions: Place a check in the appropriate column below to show whether each statement reflects a commitment to this position: *Women have the unalienable right to life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness to the same degree that men do.*

Quotes	Yes	No	Unsure	Source (to be filled in later)
1 I do not wish [women] to have power over men; but over themselves.				
2 Oh, my daughter, I wish you were a boy.				
3 If we surrender the right to speak in public this year, we must surrender the right to petition next year, and the right to write the year after and so on. What then can woman do for the slave when she herself is under the feet of man and shamed into silence?				
4 He thought these females could have a sufficient field for the exercise of their influence in the discharge of their duties to their fathers, their husbands, or their children, cheering the domestic circle, and shedding over it the mild radiance of the social virtues, instead of rushing into the fierce struggles of political life.				
5 I have been derisively called a ‘Woman’s Rights Man.’ I know no such distinction. I claim to be a ‘Human Rights Man’; and wherever there is a human being, I see God-given rights inherent in that being, whatever may be the sex or complexion.				

Quotes	Yes	No	Unsure	Source (to be filled in later)
6 She must be a slave or an equal; there is no middle ground. If it is plainly reasonable that the two sexes shall study together in the same high school, then it cannot be hopelessly ridiculous that they should study together in college also.				
7 [God has stamped upon women] a milder, gentler nature, which not only makes them shrink from, but disqualifies them for the turmoil and battle of public life. They have a higher and a holier mission...their mission is at home, by their blandishments [gentle persuasion] and their love to assuage the passions of men as they come in from the battle of life, and not themselves by joining in the contest to add fuel to the very flames. It will be a sorry day for this country when those vestal fires of love and piety are put out.				
8 It would be ridiculous to talk of male and female atmospheres, male and female springs or rains, male and female sunshine....How much more ridiculous is it in relation to mind, to soul, to thought, where there is as undeniably no such thing as sex.				
9 The right to vote is the great primitive right in which all freedom originates and culminates; it is the right from which all others spring.				
10 When I turn from the arena where man contends with man for what we call the prizes of this paltry world, I want to go back, not to the embrace of some female ward politician, but to the earnest loving look and touch of a true woman... I want those blessed loving details of domestic life and domestic love.				

Quotes	Yes	No	Unsure	Source (to be filled in later)
11 [T]here is not one reason, not one consideration, which they can urge in support of man’s claim to vote, which does not equally support the right of woman to vote.				
12 Tariff reform, fiscal policies, international relations, those large endeavors which men now determine, are foreign to the concerns and pursuits of the average woman. She is worthily employed in other departments of life, and the vote will not help her to fulfill her obligations therein.				
13 Everybody counts in applying democracy. And there will never be a true democracy until every responsible and law-abiding adult in it, without regard to race, sex, color or creed has his or her own inalienable and unpurchasable voice in government.				

COMPREHENSION AND REFLECTION QUESTIONS

On your own paper, complete these questions after filling in the sources of each quote.

1. List the names of women who supported equality for women, and summarize their arguments.

2. List the names of men who supported equality for women, and summarize their arguments.

3. List the names of women who opposed equality for women, and summarize their arguments.
4. List the names of men who opposed equality for women, and summarize their arguments.

5. List the names of people whose opinions on equality for women may be debated, and summarize reasons their statements might be interpreted either way.

6. In what ways might these quotes help illustrate momentum for the process of social change in a constitutional order?

Comprehension and Reflection Questions