

Answer Key

Background Essay: Life in Early America (1600-1800)

1. Students should recognize that dependency means less freedom. In a monarchy, subjects have all their rights and privileges only at the pleasure of the King. In contrast, in a republic, rights are acknowledged as pre-existing, and government has only those powers granted it by the people. Kings rule over subjects, whereas citizenship in a republic requires the capacity of self-government without a master: virtue, participation in civil discourse, and exercise of constitutional rights for the common good.
2. The doctrine that held that a married woman was “covered” by her husband and had no legal status as an independent person.
3. Griffitts wrote poetry and dialogued publically arguing against the war for independence; Wheatley wrote patriotic poems and met with George Washington at his invitation; Mercy Otis Warren wrote plays and a history, and corresponded with other prominent citizens; Adams corresponded with her husband and other leading citizens. All four women had access to education, all were politically engaged, all provide examples of civil discourse necessary for self-government; accept other reasoned answers.
4. Accept reasoned answers. Students should recognize that these four women were less free than their male counterparts, but were not all similarly free. As a Quaker, Griffitts had more legal rights than many women in other colonies; Wheatley was enslaved for much of her life; all four had a level of freedom that came with access to education.
5. Accept reasoned answers.
6. Accept reasoned answers.
7. Accept reasoned answers.

Handout B: Equality and Voting Amendments

Year	Amendment	Principle(s)
1865	Thirteenth Amendment prohibited slavery.	Equality, federalism, inalienable rights
1868	Fourteenth Amendment defined citizenship and prohibited states from denying due process and equal protection of the law to any person.	Equality, federalism, inalienable rights

Year	Amendment	Principle(s)
1870	Fifteenth Amendment protected the right of African American men to vote	Equality, federalism, republicanism
1913	Seventeenth Amendment changed the method of voting for United States Senators. Prior to this time, U.S. Senators were selected by their respective state legislatures. The Seventeenth Amendment provided for the people to vote directly for their U.S. Senators.	Federalism, republicanism
1920	Nineteenth Amendment protected the right of women to vote.	Equality, federalism, republicanism
1961	Twenty-third Amendment provided for the appointment of presidential electors for citizens of Washington, D.C.	Equality, federalism, republicanism
1964	Twenty-fourth Amendment prohibited poll tax as a requirement for voting for federal office-holders.	Equality, federalism, republicanism
1971	Twenty-sixth Amendment protected the right of people ages 18 and older to vote.	Equality, federalism, republicanism

Summary statement: Accept reasoned responses. Using constitutionally protected rights such as those listed in the First Amendment, individuals and groups appealed to the constitutional principles of equality and justice, in a slow process, to align the U.S. Constitution with our highest principles. You might introduce students to this 1850s statement from Theodore Parker: “I do not pretend to understand the moral universe; the arc is a long one, my eye reaches but little ways; I cannot calculate the curve and complete the figure by the experience of sight; I can divine it by conscience. And from what I see I am sure it bends towards justice.” Martin Luther King, Jr. paraphrased the statement a century later in the civil rights struggle: “The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.”

Warm-Up Sources

1. Six Things Women in Saudi Arabia Can't Do. <http://www.theweek.co.uk/60339/things-women-cant-do-in-saudi-arabia>
2. “What kind of society do you want to live in?": Inside the country where Down syndrome is disappearing. <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/down-syndrome-iceland/>
3. Racism and the Execution Chamber. <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2014/06/race-and-the-death-penalty/373081/>
4. USDA – Food Waste Challenge. <https://www.usda.gov/oce/foodwaste/faqs.htm>
5. Attorney General's Trafficking in Persons Report. <https://www.justice.gov/humantrafficking/attorney-generals-trafficking-persons-report>