

## WOMEN’S RIGHTS TODAY (TEACHER)

As a group, analyze three excerpts from the Declaration of Sentiments. Keep in mind that “he” refers to the general male population of the United States.

First, discuss each grievance with your group, and then discuss to what extent that grievance has been fixed or corrected today. Based on your discussion, circle either “not fixed,” “somewhat fixed,” or “totally fixed” in the space below.

Next, write an explanation providing evidence from the mid-1800s and today that supports your claim. You can use the Women’s Leadership Fact Sheet, the additional resources from the Pew Research Center, and/or your own observations and experiences as evidence.

1. He has never permitted her to exercise her inalienable right to the [vote]. He has [forced] her to submit to laws, in the formation of which she had no voice.

This grievance is...                      not fixed. | somewhat fixed. | totally fixed.

Evidence and reasoning:

*This grievance has been somewhat fixed. In the 19th century, women could not vote or hold political office and therefore did not have representation in the laws that were made in the U.S. While today, women are legally allowed to vote and hold political office, they are underrepresented in positions of political power. For example, while women make up 50% of the nation’s population, they are only 24% of our members of Congress who make our national laws.*

2. He has [taken over] nearly all the profitable employments, and from those she is permitted to follow, she receives but [little pay]. He closes against her all the avenues to wealth and distinction which he considers most honorable to himself. As a teacher of theology, medicine, or law, she is not known.

This grievance is...                      not fixed. | somewhat fixed. | totally fixed.

Evidence and reasoning:

*This grievance has been somewhat fixed. Women in the 19th century rarely worked outside of the home, and the jobs that they did have made little money. Additionally, if a woman was married, the wages she earned belonged to her husband by law. Today, women can attend college and can apply for any job. However, women are still underrepresented in positions of leadership and prestige in companies and other high-paying professions. For example, women make up only 5% of Fortune 500 CEOs, and in the legal profession, women make up 45% of associates but only 22.7% of partners and 19% of equity partners.*

3. ... He has created a false public [perception] by giving the world a different code of morals for men and women, by which moral [wrongdoings] which exclude women from society, are not only tolerated, but deemed of little account in man...

This grievance is...                      not fixed. | somewhat fixed. | totally fixed.

Evidence and reasoning:

*This grievance has been somewhat fixed. While it is socially acceptable for women to speak in public, be involved, active members of our communities, and do many things that were traditionally considered for men only, there are still gender norms and standards that are different for men and women. These gender norms are still oppressive for women as well as men. For example, if a woman displays her anger publicly, it is often said that she is “too emotional,” whereas a man would be applauded and supported for being “strong and aggressive.” These stereotypes keep both men and women from being able to fully express all aspects of their humanity and achieve true equality.*