

Lesson #2: Radical Goals
Formative Assessment Option #2
PARAGRAPH EXEMPLARS

PROMPT: Using the chart and short answer responses to the Declaration of Sentiments excerpt, in 1-2 paragraphs, respond to the following question using supporting evidence from the primary sources in this lesson.

- According to the definition we created at the beginning of class (and considering the influence of AfroAmerican and Haudenosaunee feminists from the previous lesson), were the organizers of the Women's Rights Convention radicals? Why or why not?
 - Be sure to include the following:
 - A description of their goals
 - Primary source evidence

STUDENT EXAMPLE 1 [ARGUES ACTIVISTS WERE NOT RADICAL]:

The women who organized the Seneca Falls Convention were not radicals because they were not the first women to advocate for the rights of women. They wanted equality for women, especially the right to vote and express their voices in government. They witnessed this very experience in a society neighboring their own. The Haudenosaunee, a tribe that lived in upstate New York surrounding Seneca Falls, had lived in a matriarchal society for hundreds of years and served as inspiration for the white women at Seneca Falls. Women's rights activist Matilda Joselyn Gage acknowledged the role that matriarchal societies played as examples for the American women's rights movement, "Under their women, the science of government reached the highest form known to the world" (*Woman, Church, and State*, 1893). To be radical is to be the first of revolutionaries who want to overthrow a system. While American women were oppressed within their system, they were not the first to imagine a society in which women were true equals to men. So while the American women's rights activists certainly showed bravery in their fight, they cannot be considered radical since they were not the first and only following the example of the Haudenosaunee.

STUDENT EXAMPLE 2 [ARGUES ACTIVISTS WERE RADICAL]:

The women who organized the Seneca Falls Convention were radicals because they went against social norms of their time, risking rejection from others. They wanted to overturn the social and political order of the time by gaining equal rights as men, and gain equal legal footing so that they would no longer be considered property of their husbands. After being arrested for attempting to vote in 1872, Susan B. Anthony said, "The women, dissatisfied as they are with this form of government that enforces "taxation without representation"-that compels them to obey laws to which they have never given their consent-that imprisons and hangs them without a trial by a jury of their peers-that robs them, in marriage, of the custody of their own persons, wages, and children, are-this half of the people-left wholly at the mercy of the other half. . ." (*is it a crime for a U.S. Citizen to Vote?* 1873). Anthony was specifically naming the ways in which women were oppressed, and by doing so challenging the social order of the 19th century. This was not just an unpopular opinion, it cost her her freedom. She went to jail for these beliefs, demonstrating her willingness to sacrifice herself for the cause of restructuring society, which is the very definition of radicalism.