

Comprehension

Purpose

Today you will read the speech “Ain’t I a Woman” delivered by Sojourner Truth. The purpose of this first task is for you to get the gist of Truth’s argument.

Task

Before the session

Step 1: Please read “Ain’t I a Woman.”

Read like this.

- First read the whole speech through to get your head into it.
- Then reread.
- While you reread, please annotate the text.

To annotate it, mark or underline or circle sentences with your brief comments or summaries of the ideas that seem important to her argument. You can decide which ones really matter after you read and go back to review.

After you have finished rereading and annotating the text, please compose a quick write in response to the following question:

- What’s the speech about? What’s Truth’s argument?
- Keep your annotated text next to you when you write so that you can use evidence from your annotations when you compose your quick write.

Tips

Quick-writes are times for you to use writing to think on the page. Most people write them quickly, in 3– 5 minutes, and they don’t need to have correct sentences or even complete sentences. They don’t need to have correct spellings. They are your thinking on the page with writing to get your ideas down as quick as you can.

Before you do the quick-write, glance back at the passages you marked when you read. Refer to those as much as you can when you compose your quick-write.

When you write this quick-write, try it this way. When you’re ready to write, put your pen or pencil to the paper and write out your thoughts without stopping until you feel like you’ve said everything that’s on your mind. The idea here is to push yourself to keep the writing flowing. Think about filling a page.

During the Session

Step 2: Take 5 minutes to share your quick-write with a partner. As you share, notice where you agree and where you disagree with each other about what Truth is arguing for in this speech.

Create a chart in the linked [Google Slides presentation](#). Be sure to list the things you agree on, the things you disagree on, and any questions you may have about the speech. We will be viewing your chart during a virtual gallery walk.

Step 3: After the gallery walk and whole group discussion, please complete a quick-write to reflect on your thinking using the following question:

- How has your thinking about what Truth is arguing in this speech been changed or confirmed after seeing your peers' charts? What did you see that confirmed or changed your thinking?

Step 4: Working from the quick write you drafted in **Step 1** and your reflection from **Step 3**, draft an essay in response to the following question:

- As readers, we learn a lot about who Sojourner Truth is both through how she describes her experiences and through her interactions with the audience. Please write an essay in which you explain what you learn about Truth as an individual by reading this speech.

Remember, as you draft your essay you should:

1. Answer the questions with a clearly stated idea.
2. Cite evidence from the text that supports your idea.
3. Explain how the evidence you cited supports your thinking. This should be more than a restatement of the quotation or quotations that you used from the essay.