

Viewpoints on Voting

Summarize the primary sources below and then decide if the writer was for or against women and free people of African descent voting. Highlight, circle, or underline the specific words or phrases that helped you decide.

1. Letter to the *True American*, 18 October 1802

“...the inconvenience attending the practice [of voting for women] far outweighs the benefits derived from it. We may well be allowed to answer without being accused of detractions, that those votes are rarely, if ever unbiased. Timid and pliant, unskilled in politics, unacquainted with all the real merits of the several candidates, and almost always placed under the dependence or care of a father, uncle, or brother, they will of course be directed or persuaded by them; and the man who brings his two daughters, his mother, his aunt to the elections really gives five votes instead of one. . . .”

2. Lewis Condict’s Speech, *True American*, 23 November 1807

“Besides, if women, negroes and aliens are entitled to vote, it must follow that they are eligible to office, as the right of electing and of being elected are reciprocal and inseparable. Yet it cannot for a moment be supposed, that the authors of the constitution meant to entrust the command of our armies and the direction of the state, either to women, to negroes, or to aliens. In the term “inhabitant” they meant to include the free, white, male citizens being then inhabitants.—And if the legislature has a right to limit the term in the smallest degree they may prohibit women and negroes from voting with the same propriety as they may prohibit married women and slaves.”

3. Elias Boudinot’s Speech, Elizabethtown, New Jersey, 4 July 1793

“The rights of women are no longer strange sounds to an American ear, and I devoutly hope the day is not far distant when we shall find them dignifying in a distinguishing code, the jurisprudence of several states of the Union.”

4. A person writing under the pen name “Citizen,” *Genius of Liberty*, 7 August 1800

“Our daughters are the same relations to us as our sons; we owe them the same duties; they have the same science and are equally competent to their attainments.”

5. Federalist pamphleteer William Griffith, “Eumenes,” 1799

“Women, generally are neither by nature, nor habit, nor education, nor by their necessary condition in society fitted to perform this duty with credit to themselves or advantage to the public.”

6. Henry Ford’s Speech, Morristown, New Jersey, 4 July 1806

“It admits to the pole people of all sexes, colors, tongues, characters, and conditions. In our unbounded generosity, we would admit to a participation in our choicest rights the lame and the halt, and the blind [as well as] ... the worthless and penniless...”

Media Tracker

Find a recent headline news article and two other newspapers or online news outlets that covered the same story. Use the chart below to track the differences and similarities between the three stories.

DIFFERENCES

Story 1	Story 2	Story 3

SIMILARITIES

Continued

WORD CHOICE & FRAMING TRACKER

Use the chart below to keep track of the different word choice, connotation, and framing each story uses.

Story 1	Story 2	Story 3

STORY THESIS

In 1-2 sentences, write a thesis statement for each story. Remember to keep in mind what content is reported and the way the content is being reported.

1.
2.
3.