

For each of the following quotes taken from the *Ohio Women's Convention Proceedings* in 1850, read them carefully and then interpret them. Explain in your own words what you think the quotes mean or what point was being made.

Quotes	Interpretation
<p>"...all rights are human rights, and pertain to human beings, without distinction of sex; therefore justice demands that all laws shall be made, not for man, or for woman, but for mankind, and that the same legal protection be afforded to the one sex as to the other."</p>	
<p>"...all distinctions between men and women, in regard to social, literary, pecuniary, religious or political customs and institutions, based on a distinction of sex, are contrary to the laws of Nature, are unjust, and destructive to the purity, elevation and progress in knowledge ..."</p>	
<p>"...the practice of holding women amenable to a different standard of propriety and morality from that to which men are held amenable, is unjust and unnatural, and highly detrimental to domestic and social virtue and happiness."</p>	
<p>"...and put off the day when social laws and costumes shall recognize them as equally entitled with men to a voice in creating and administering the governmental and religious institutions under which they ..."</p>	
<p>"...the political history of Woman demonstrates that tyranny, the most degrading, cruel and arbitrary, can be exercised and produced the same in effect under a mild republican form of government as by an hereditary despotism..."</p>	
<p>"...while we deprecate thus earnestly the political oppression of Woman, we see in her social condition, the regard in which she is held as a moral and intellectual being, the fundamental cause of that oppression..."</p>	
<p>"...amongst the principal causes of such social condition, we regard the public sentiment which withholds from her all, or almost all, lucrative employments, and enlarged spheres of labor."</p>	
<p>"...in the difficulties thus cast in the way of her self-support, and in her consequent dependence upon man, we see the greatest influence at work in imparting to her that tone of character which makes her to be regarded as the "weaker vessel."</p>	
<p>"...in those laws which confer on man the power to control the property and person of woman, and to remove from her at will the children of her affection, we recognize only the modified code of the slave plantation..."</p>	
<p>"...as she shows by the cultivation of her own mind, and the force of her own character, that she is capable of filling them...proving she can grasp them, although it has been withheld from her..."</p>	
<p>"...as woman is not permitted to hold office, nor have any voice in the government, she should not be compelled to pay taxes out of her scanty wages to support men ...who enact laws for her..."</p>	

Answer the following questions in regards to your interpretations of the quotes from the Ohio's Womens' Convention Proceedings.

1. Do women have an equal opportunity to influence political and government decisions today? Give some examples that support your answer.
2. Do women have equal opportunities in employment and are they paid fairly today? Give some examples that support your answer.
3. Do women have equal opportunities to achieve positions of wealth and status today? Give some examples that support your answer.
4. Do women have equal opportunities in education today? Give some examples that support your answer.
5. Is there a different moral standard for men and women today? Explain and support your answer.
6. Do men treat women in an equal and fair fashion today? Explain and support your answer.
7. In the home, do you think household tasks are divided and completed in a fair manner? Explain and support your answer?
8. Looking back at the quotes, what parts of the women's grievances have been redressed or have changed in their favor and to what degree have changes occurred? Give examples that support your answer.
9. In what ways was the struggle for woman suffrage similar to and different from African American's struggle for equal rights?
10. In your opinion, what needs to be redressed today to improve the social, economic, political and educational status of women? What issues would you focus on and how would you go about making changes?