

Lesson 3

Mary Wollstonecraft – Women’s Right to an Education (Equality)

Objective:

- Explain the ideas of the Enlightenment thinkers, Mary Wollstonecraft (women’s right to an education, equality)
- What is the meaning behind Wollstonecraft’s writing, especially her essay entitled *A Vindication of the Rights of Women*

Standard(s): CA 10.2.1, HI 2

Set: Notes

- Boys: Describe how your life would be different if you were a girl?
- Girls: Describe how your life would be different if you were a boy?

Most responses from boys will illustrate a lack of freedom, whereas girls will illustrate more freedom.

Instruction:

Input – PowerPoint Lecture Information regarding Mary Wollstonecraft’s life and ideas.

Students will be provided with a copy of Primary Source from *A Vindication of the Rights of Women* by Mary Wollstonecraft (see attached)

Students will read silently, highlighting any keys words/phrases/ideas they find most meaningful. They can also highlight any ideas that generate questions.

Guided Practice:

As a group we will analyze Wollstonecraft’s work – dissecting main ideas from the piece of literature

- Women’s false system of education
- Women as alluring mistresses rather than affectionate wives and rational mothers
- Women’s need for independence and education

Checking for Understanding:

Students will view a current event video: As the Taliban Fall, Women Rise. ABC News piece, 2011.

- Women in Afghanistan for years have been denied equal opportunities as men.
- Women currently have made progress in literacy/education.
- Commentary on importance of women’s independence

Independent Practice:

Found poem (see attached instructions)

Essential Elements of Efficacious Instruction

- ✓ **Teacher Clarity**
 - Recognize Diversity of learners

- ✓ **Develop expert learners**
 - Dialogue as a means to dig deeper
- ✓ **Build Democratic Relationships**
 - Authentic
 - Communicate
 - Culturally proficient
 - Demonstrate their knowledge and teach others
 - curiosity
- ✓ **Design for Invested Cognition**
 - Student Centered
 - Relevance

Found Poem Instructions - from *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* by Mary Wollstonecraft.

1. Choose a partner to create a found poem (if you prefer to work alone you may, no more than 2 people in a group).
2. Carefully re-read the passage *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* by Mary Wollstonecraft. Highlight or underline details, words and phrases that you find particularly powerful, moving, or interesting and that highlight the meaning behind Mary's message on women rights.
3. On a separate sheet of paper, make a list of the details, words and phrases you underlined, keeping them in the order that you found them.
4. Look back over your list and cut out everything that might appear unnecessary. **You must have at least 20 lines.**
5. Make any minor changes necessary to create your poem. You can change punctuation and make little changes to the words to make them fit together (such as change the tenses, possessives, plurals, and capitalizations).
6. When you're close to an edited down version, if you absolutely need to add a word or two to make the poem flow more smoothly, to make sense, to make a point, *you may add up to two words of your own.*
7. Create your own title for your "Found Poem".

8. Practice reading your poem - your poem will be recited to the class tomorrow.