

1 **Letter from Abigail Adams to John Adams**

2 March 31, 1776

3
4 I long to hear that you have declared an independency—and by the way in the new
5 Code of Laws which I suppose it will be necessary for you to make I desire you
6 would Remember the Ladies, and be more generous and favourable to them than
7 your ancestors. Do not put such unlimited power into the hands of the Husbands.
8 Remember all Men would be tyrants if they could. If particular care and attention
9 is not paid to the Laidies we are determined to foment a Rebelion, and will not
10 hold ourselves bound by any Laws in which we have no voice, or Representation.

rulers who use
power harshly
encourage/start

11
12 That your Sex are Naturally Tyrannical is a Truth so thoroughly established as to
13 admit of not dispute, but such of you as wish to be happy willingly give up the
14 harsh title of Master for the more tender and endearing one of Friend. Why then,
15 not put it out of the power of the vicious and the Lawless to use with cruelty and
16 indignity with impunity. Men of Sense in all Ages abhor those customs which treat
17 us only as the vassals of your Sex. Regard us then as Beings placed by **providence**
18 under your protection and in imitation of the Supream Being make use of that
19 power only for our happiness.

disagreement

20
21 *Note: The spelling and language has not been changed.*

freedom; hate/
despise

22

1 **Letter from John Adams to Abigail Adams**

2 April 14, 1776

3
4 As to your extraordinary Code of Laws, I cannot but laugh. We have been told that
5 our Struggle has loosened the bands of Government everywhere. That Children
6 and Apprentices were disobedient—that schools and Colledges were grown
7 turbulent—that Indians slighted their Guardians and Negroes grew insolent to their
8 Masters.

unstable; rebellious

9
10 But your Letter was the first Intimation that another Tribe more numerous and
11 powerfull than all the rest were grown discontented. —This is rather too coarse a
12 Compliment but you are so saucy, I wont blot it out.

13
14 forced

15 Depend upon it, We know better than to repeal our Masculine systems. Altho they
16 are in full Force, you know they are little more than Theory. We dare not exert our
17 Power in its full Latitude. We are obliged to go fair, and softly, and in Practice you
18 know We are the subjects. We have only the Name of Masters, and rather than
19 give up this, which would completely subject Us to the Despotism of the Petticoat,
20 I hope General Washington, and all our brave Heroes would fight. I am sure every
21 good Politician would plot, as long he would against Despotism, Empire,
22 Monarchy, Aristocracy, Oligarchy, or Ochlocracy. —

23
24 Dictatorship

25 *Note: The spelling and language has not been changed.*

Text-Dependent Question Creation Worksheet

Please print legibly.

Name of Text: **Letter from Abigail Adams to John Adams, March 31, 1776; Letter from John Adams to Abigail Adams, April 14, 1776**

First and Last Names of the Question Composers: Temoca Dixon and Marcia Motter

Nevada State Standards: H2./6-8/.13

CCSS: RH.6-8.1, RH.6-8.2, RH.6-8.4, RH.6-8.6, RH.6-8.10, WHST.6-8.1, SL.7.1a

Questions in Finalized Order	What is the point of this question? Why did you write it. Is there an overarching understanding you are trying to reach with students? Include all answers (words, phrases, sentences with line numbers)
Who wrote the first letter and to whom was it written? Who wrote the second letter and to whom was it written? About how much time has pass between the writing of the two letters?	Letter 1, Line 1 - Abigail Adams to John Adams Letter 2, Line 1- John Adams to Abigail Adam Letter 1, Line 2 compared to Letter 2, Line 2= about 2 weeks
What is Abigail Adams referring to when she states in line 4, “I long to hear that you have declared an independency”?	That the 2 nd Continental Congress has declared their independence from Great Britain. The colonies have declared war against Great Britain. Line 1 each letter: the names of Abigail Adams and John Adams Line 2 each letter: the dates Line 19, 2 nd letter: “I hope General Washington, and all our brave Heroes would fight.” Rationale: Students need to look at the sourcing to understand a document. They need to use dates and names to understand a time period and the events that are taking place during that time period.
What does Abigail Adams want when she says on lines 5-6, “I desire you would remember the Ladies...”	She is unhappy with the position or status of women. Letter 2, Lines 10-11: “But your Letter was the first Intimation that another Tribe more numerous and powerfull than all the rest were grown discontented.” She would like more women’s rights. She would like democracy for women, as well as men. She wants a voice and representation for the ladies. Letter 1, Lines 8-10: “Remember all Men would be tyrants if they could. If perticuliar care and

Questions in Finalized Order

What is the point of this question? Why did you write it. Is there an overarching understanding you are trying to reach with students?

Include all answers (words, phrases, sentences with line numbers)

	<p>attention is not paid to the Laidies we are determined to foment a Rebelion, and will not hold ourselves bound by any laws in which we have no voice, or Representation.”</p> <p>She wants women to have more equality. Letter 1, Lines 13-14: ...willingly give up the harsh title of Master for the more tender and endearing one of Friend.”</p> <p>She would like men to be kinder and not as harsh with women.</p> <p>Letter 1, Line 6: “...be more generous and favourable to them.”</p> <p>Rationale: Students should know that Abigail Adams was an early advocate for women’s rights.</p>
In Abigail's letter on line 12, what word could be substituted for “your Sex?”	Manliness or gender
In letter 1, line 15 Abigail Adams writes that “it” should be “put out of power.” What is <i>it</i> ?	It refers to men being tyrants (line 8); unlimited power (line 6); Naturally Tyrannical (line 12); title of Master (line 14); vicious and Lawless (line 16); they consider women vassals (line 17)
In line 17, providence means being place under the care or guidance of God. Why does Abigail use the word providence in her letter to John?	Abigail is comparing the responsibility men have to women. She says their care is an imitation of the “Suprem Being” and that they should use that power to make women happy (line 19) instead of being tyrants, indignant, cruel and vassals of their Sex.

Questions in Finalized Order

What is the point of this question? Why did you write it. Is there an overarching understanding you are trying to reach with students?

Include all answers (words, phrases, sentences with line numbers)

How does John Adams respond to Abigail's request in her letter (lines 5 and 6)
"I desire you would remember the Ladies, and be more generous and favourable to them than your ancestors."?

He disregards it, he doesn't take it seriously, he is shocked that a woman, his wife, would speak so candidly to him.

Letter 2, Line 4: "As to your extraordinary Code of Laws, I cannot but laugh."
Letter 2, Lines 11-12: "This is rather too coarse a Compliment but you are so saucy, I wont blot it out."

Rationale: Students should be able to show beliefs of the time periods regarding women and their place in society.

Why does John Adams argue the "Struggle has loosened the bands of Government? (Line 5)

This rebellion has inspired rebellions on a smaller scale in all parts of society.
Letter, lines 5-8: "We have been told that our Struggle has loosened the bands of Government everywhere. That children and Apprentices were disobedient—that schools and Colledges were grown turbulent—that Indians slighted their Guardians and Negroes grew insolent to their Masters."

Rationale: Students should know that the discussion of independence was revolutionary for the time. It inspired new perspectives and new ways of thinking.

Masculine systems describe male dominance in a society with women having little political power. John claims that men are not actually dominate. How does he support this claim?

Little more than theory (line 15); do not exert power (line 16); fair and softly (line 16) and we are all subjects (line 17); Master is only a name (line 17).

Writing Prompt:

Abigail Adams, one of America's first women's rights advocates, argues equality for women. Identify and describe the position of women in colonial society during this time period.

Use 3 pieces of evidence and reasoning from the text to support your answer. Cite the evidence correctly by using line numbers (Lines 3-4) at the end of the sentence. Connect the evidence to the claim with reasoning that explains the evidence.

Checklist identifying key points that will assist in measuring student success and/or difficulty with the close reading and/or writing prompt

Women do not have a voice, they want representation

Women want to be equal, not subservient to men or their husbands

Women want their husbands to protect them. They don't want their husbands to rule over them as a master or tyrant. They would like their husbands to be kind to them and make use of their power for happiness.

Abigail is comparing men to King George. She writes, "Remember all Men would be tyrants if they could." She is saying that it is the nature of man to behave as a tyrant if he could. Men would treat others they see as inferior or beneath them cruelly or harshly.

In their writing students should:

- Introduce a topic clearly, previewing what is to follow; organize ideas, concepts, and information into broader categories
- Develop the topic with relevant, well-chosen facts, definitions, concrete details, and quotations
- Use appropriate and varied transitions to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts
- Establish and maintain a formal style and objective tone
- Provide a concluding statement that follows from and supports the information or explanation presented
- Quotations are cited correctly using line numbers from the text (Lines 8-9) at the end of the quote.