

Speech to the Ohio Women's Conference (Ain't I a Woman?)

Sojourner Truth

PART ONE: Breaking down the speech

Directions: FIRST: Use bullet points to paraphrase and/or summarize the different points/claims that Truth makes in each paragraph of each version. Many paragraphs will have more than one/several bullet points. You will certainly notice that the two versions share many of the same ideas, and thus the same ideas will appear in both. You will also notice that some points are only made in one version and also that the order of some of the points she makes are sometimes changed. As each version has exactly five paragraphs, put the ideas in the correct box for each version. SECOND: Highlight in **light yellow** all of the points/claims that overlap between the two versions. Then highlight in a different color of your choice all of the points that are only in one version.

Gage (1863)

Robinson (1851)

1		
2		
3		
4		
5		

PART TWO: Analyzing the speech

1. In the two versions of the same speech, Truth makes mention of several Biblical characters. Below are three characters (or sets of) that she refers to in at least one version. Explain briefly who the character(s) is/are and why they are important. In other words, *what important details would someone need to know about them to understand their inclusion in the speech?* They are listed here in alphabetical order, not necessarily in the order she uses them.
 - a. Eve—
 - b. Jesus Christ—
 - c. Lazarus, Mary and Martha--
2. Which one argument (whether it is in one or both versions) do you find to be the strongest, or most convincing for the audience she was speaking to? State the general argument or write the quote itself and then explain why it's an especially convincing argument as it pertains to her central idea.
3. Which one argument (whether it is in one or both versions) do you find to be the weakest, or least convincing for the audience she was speaking to? State the general argument or write the quote itself and then explain why it's a weaker argument as it pertains to her central idea.
4. Which version do you believe to be the more effective/stronger of the two? Be very specific in your reasoning for your opinion, as each has its own merits. Why does the merit of the one you believe to be more accurate outweigh the merit of the other?
5. Which version do you believe to be the more accurate of the two? Be very specific in your reasoning for your opinion, as each has its own merits. Why does the merit of the one you believe to be more accurate outweigh the merit of the other?