

ASSIGNMENT 4: WRITING ABOUT CONTRASTING TONES GROUP PRACTICE

PROMPT: In groups, carefully read the passage and identify the tones. Write a paragraph discussing how the tones reflect the woman's attitude (opinion) toward women's rights. When the groups are finished, they should read their paragraphs to the class, and the class should critique them using the paragraph format.

Speech Endorsing Women's Enfranchisement by Adelle Hazlett,
Women's Rights Pioneer

"It is a shame to this Republic, and the men of this Republic, that I, or any other woman, should stand upon a public platform and plead and supplicate for our right of the franchise....

"The men of this Republic thus declare themselves the champions of liberty. But what of one half of American's own citizens? Bow your heads, oh ye law-makers, and blush for shame that ye place the crown of citizenship upon the brows of men, who are the off-shoots, the dregs, the scum of European Dynasties; yet practically say your own wives and daughters are not worthy to wear it! They have helped you to conquer independence, to protect it from rebellion and treason, and this is their reward.

"But while I contend that men are doing women a great wrong, I am willing to believe they will do her justice yet. I will not have the impertinent arrogance to say that the equality which they declare the centre and starting-point of all their national policies is but an idle joke upon the most sacred interest of humanity. No, gentlemen, I will accept your republican sentiments as real, and in behalf of women will claim the natural, logical, unavoidable consequence of your freely chosen government policy; a right to shape her own destiny, a right untrammelled as an American citizen to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."