



Classroom activities

A vindication of the *Vindication*

Activity summary:

Read a passage of the *Vindication of the Rights of Woman*. Rewrite it as an article for the national media, from the point of view of a modern feminist.

Suggested groups: Y12-13

Resources:

A passage of the *Vindication of the Rights of Woman*.

Samples of modern journalism, from a range of media which might include women's magazine, religious, tabloid and broadsheet newspapers, and online comment or blog sources.

Word-processing facilities or writing materials.

Learning Objectives:

- *Critically assess feminist ideas and discourses.
- *Engage with the thought processes of our predecessors.
- *Understand modern social issues.
- *Express strong beliefs in a manner appropriate to the medium.
- *Argue effectively for a given point.
- *Inform others of historical points of view.

AO and Syllabus links:

This links in with ideas of citizenship and critical thinking. It may also be appropriate for discussion in the context of History or Religious Philosophy. It meets the GCSE aim to enable students to adapt speech to a widening range of circumstances and demands.

Further information:

Groups could be encouraged to analyse and discuss the nature of journalism. What is the market for e.g. *Take a break* as opposed to *The Tablet* or *The Times*? Can they write up an idea for each different publication?

Through the exhibition material the *Vindication* can be put into a personal context. To what extent does this authorial background influence our reading of the text? Students could be encouraged to read the letters and think about how 'feminist' these are.

Discussion about the changing nature of feminism should also be encouraged.

Suggestions are that up to a lesson is spent preparing for this, the task done as homework, and a lesson spent on subsequent discussion.