

Your weekly reading responses for WS100 must take the following form, **Select a Quotation, Identify and Discuss the Significance**, called SQuIDS for short:

Select a Quotation: Pick one or two significant sentences from any of the readings assigned that week. A significant quotation is usually one that states the main thesis of the article or section, one that states an important supporting thesis, or one that demonstrates a premise or assumption made by the author. You may also choose to pick a sentence demonstrating an important rhetorical move or one that demonstrates a weakness of the argument. Place your selected quotation at the top of the page, clearly differentiated from your response.

Example: “The history of mankind is a history of repeated injuries and usurpation on the part of man toward woman, having in direct object the establishment of an absolute tyranny over her. To prove this, let facts be submitted to a candid world.”

Identify: Give the title and author of the text that contains your chosen quotation, and then explain *where* in the text this sentence occurs, i.e., it is the opening line, it is the last portion before the author transitions to another topic, it is in the middle of the section on dolphins. Your explanation of where it occurs in the text must bear some relevance to its importance.

Example: This sentence is in the introduction of “The Declaration of Sentiments,” as recorded in Elizabeth Cady Stanton’s *The History of Women’s Suffrage*. It prefaces a long list of grievances, the “facts [to] be submitted,” that the women at Seneca Falls held against the men of the United States.

Discuss the Significance: Explain why you chose this quotation. If it states a main or supporting thesis, give that thesis in your own words, and explain how the author supports it otherwise in the work. If it gives a premise or assumption, explain what that piece of support is and why it is vital to the author’s overall argument. If the sentence makes an important rhetorical move, that is, if it is an example of the overall style or tone of the work, explain why.

Example: This section introduces the main arguments of the *Declaration*, including the lack of suffrage rights for women, and names them as part of a history of injuries committed by men against women. Read just as it is written, this introduction tells us that the writers saw their position, as women, as the victims of the tyranny of men. Further, they saw their subjugation as a simple and obvious truth, not an opinion. However, the section takes on another layer once we take into account that the *Declarations of Sentiments* is a play on the *Declaration of Independence*. Here, Cady Stanton has substituted “mankind” for the King of Great Britain, while woman stands in for the subjugated states. Woman is declaring her independence from the tyranny of man, a tyranny that is simply a matter of fact.