

SPEAKERS' GUIDELINES: PROPOSITION 3 - 1

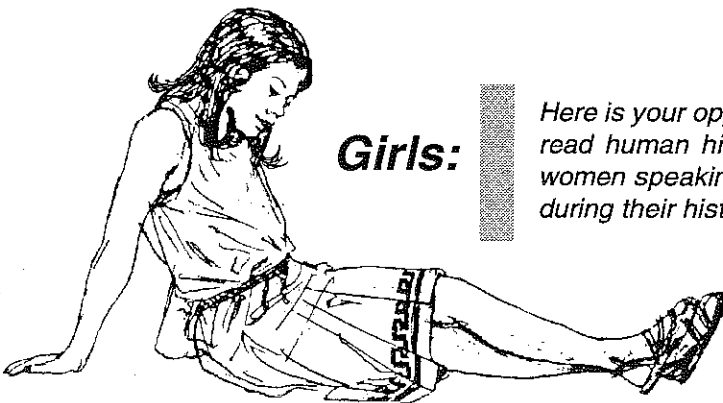
Proposition 3: Women's Rights

Women have been denied equal rights as Greeks for too long and should be allowed to have full citizenship with voting rights in the Assembly.

(These suggestions are only an outline. Research further for more ideas and details.)

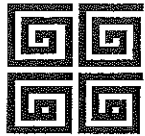
Arguments for the proposition:

- Statistically women make up about 50% of our population. By denying women citizenship, we are losing out on 50% of our potential.
- Women can and want to achieve if given citizenship. Some women have left their dull, lifeless existence to become hetairai-liberated, independent Greek women. Aspasia, Theoris, Thais, and Drotina are names of women who have followed this path and have the respect of men like Socrates and Pericles. Clearly, women are as capable as men in intelligence and rational thought. To think otherwise is to be blindly unaware.
- Denied equality, women cannot become members of this Assembly, nor take a role in public matters except in the theater and festival processions. It's a limited life, and all because they were born female.
- Because of never being given opportunities to contribute to the polis, they are trapped in mindless activities. To many men, they are baby-machines, even in Sparta where they are allowed physical training.
- Here is a clear signal of men's evil treatment of women. Fathers often expose a newborn daughter to the elements, hoping to see her die because they are disappointed at not having a son. If women were granted political equality and the vote, fathers would never commit such an inhumane act.



Girls:

Here is your opportunity to speak up. Too seldom while we read human history do we ever hear the voices of past women speaking their feelings about what was happening during their historical era.



SPEAKERS' GUIDELINES: PROPOSITION 3 - 2

- Housework and raising children do not fill up an entire day. That means women have too much idle time. They would rather be in the Assembly making worthy decisions that they are capable of rendering.
- Not to empower women is to deny Hellas its full potential.
- Several of the female gods are given virtues and qualities men admire. Don't flesh-and-blood Greek women have them, too?

Arguments against the proposition:

- Women are perfectly suited to be homemakers and mothers. Nature has given them important roles. We cannot change biology. Anatomy is destiny.
- Besides, what more important role is there for someone than to raise and nurture our children and manage the entire household, with all of the duties and responsibilities these roles have?
- Women's primary function is to produce Greek sons. All the great warriors, philosophers, athletes, poets, scientists, and dramatists would not have achieved what they did without their mothers who nurtured them at home. Is this not enough importance for women?
- Women aren't capable of rational, political thought. Politics is a man's domain and responsibility: to listen, debate, and vote in this Assembly. The gods have decreed women's secondary status in this realm. To change this would be against the gods.
- Since women aren't strong enough, aren't cunning enough, and can't think clearly enough, they can't serve in the armies and navies. Therefore, they shouldn't be able to make decisions in this Assembly affecting this polis in time of war.

