**USA Women’s History 1600-1850 Discussion**

**Directions:** Read the assigned pages and discuss the answers with your partner for a Class Participation Grade.

In order to do the reading you need to open up on my website: **Week 6 Women’s History Reading**

**Overview:** One of the essay questions on your SEMESTER FINAL EXAM is to Analyze how women and minorities faced oppression, resisted against this oppression, and how were they successful and not successful in overcoming this oppression from 1800-1920? In today’s reading you will learn about how USA Women faced oppression in the USA from 1600-1850.

So open my website to **Week 6 Women’s History Reading**

**Read the assigned parts only and discuss each question with your partner before you move on to the next question.**

**#1) What do you think the title of this chapter means “The Intimately Oppressed”?**

**#2) Only read the first two paragraphs on page 102 and discuss with your partner what are the main ideas in these first 2 paragraphs?**

**#3) ONLY READ PAGE 105. After you read page 105 discuss these questions with your partner:**

1. From 1600-1900 in the USA what is a woman’s legal term in legal documents?
2. Why is a woman’s legal term not a “woman” or “citizen” but rather a “covert”? What does that mean?
3. From 1600-1900 in the USA what legal rights does a woman have in the USA? Explain.

#4) **ONLY READ PAGE 106.** After you read page 106 discuss with your partner: Who was Polly Baker? What happened to her? What can we learn about the situation for American women in the USA from 1600-1900 from her story?

#5) Howard Zinn argues that from 1800-1860 there are major changes in the USA- especially because of the Industrial Revolution in the USA. Now USA factories need women’s cheap labor to work in textile factories. So for the first time women are leaving the home and entering the workplace and larger society. Therefore, Zinn argues, USA society needed to create newer “controls on women”.

-Start reading near the bottom of page 110 where it says “ There was a complex movement…..” and then read all of page 111.

**-After you read pages 110-111 discuss with your partner: WHAT ARE SOME OF THESE “NEW CONTROLS” put onto women from 1800-1860 to deal with all the changes of the Industrial Revolution?**

#6) Finally, Zinn argues that from 1800-1860 there is a new “cultural oppression” put onto American women to deal with all these changes in society with the Industrial Revolution. This is called a ‘cult of domesticity’. **READ ALL OF PAGE 113 and then discuss with your partner: What is a ‘cult of domesticity’ and how does Zinn argue this is used a further oppression of women in the USA?**