

Help with Writing Assignment #3

Chopin and Brady have much in common. They're both women and both feminists. However, in this essay, we want to explore DIFFERENCES.

A. Differences between THE TWO WOMEN.

Being a feminist in 1894 was very different from 1971 and more recent times. In 1894, women could not vote. They had few legal rights. If married, they were still considered chattel (property) of their husbands. If not married, they were considered freaks ("old maids"). If a woman raised her voice, she was "[hysterical](#)." If a woman wanted to work outside the home, she had basically two options: (1) nurse or (2) elementary school teacher.

So consider a conversation between Chopin, a product of the nineteenth century, and Brady, a much more modern woman. Although they would agree about much, they would also have areas of disagreement.

B. Differences between the two PIECES OF WRITING.

Be sure to click on the definitions provided on your instruction sheet:

- **GENRE.** There is a good reason why Kate Chopin chose to write a STORY rather than an ESSAY. Consider how unpopular the cause for women's rights was in 1894! How well do you think an in-your-face essay would have been received?
- **TONE.** Pay close attention to the definition. It's all about the attitude of the WRITERS—toward marriage, in this case. If you take Judy Brady literally, it sounds like she wants a wife. (After all, that's the title of the essay!) However, she is being [sarcastic](#).
- **MOOD.** Pay close attention to the definition. It's all about the reaction of the AUDIENCE (readers). Unlike tone, which is constant, MOOD CAN SHIFT throughout the piece. The beginning, middle, and end can have very different moods.
- **STYLE.** Make sure you cover Point of View.

2. Possible pitfalls.

- a. Summarizing the pieces without analyzing them.
- b. Quoting outside sources without giving attribution = plagiarism.