

Mr. Francis
American Literature II

The Awakening Revisited Response

Kate Chopin's The Awakening (1899) considers social, intellectual, political, literary, and other conventions in the context of gender roles. One of the pitfalls of reading a text that addresses the plight of middle class women at the turn of the nineteenth century is that the dichotomies that characterized those roles then were often quite stark (e.g., running a household v. having a career). This can make it difficult for some to identify the relevance of the text for our contemporary era.

To lend new significance to Chopin's novel, students must choose a current issue (something that has been in the news during the last 12 months) to address through the lens of The Awakening and a woman's role in the 1890s.

Possible topics include:

- domestic abuse
- maternity and employment, salary disparities, or other "glass ceiling" issues
- dating or marriage
- gender roles based on background (such as ethnicity, nationality, religion, etc.)
- fashion, body image, diet, fitness, etc.
- women in politics, sports, comedy, other "nontraditional" roles

Students must read, reference, and cite one recent article from a reputable news organization. They must also devote part of the response to two or more specific elements of Chopin's novel (may include concrete details or quoted text). Questions about how to cite sources, etc. should be directed to Mr. Francis.

Length guidelines: 200-350 words. Do not exceed two pages.

Format guidelines: All submissions must be double-spaced with a Courier New font and one-inch margins all around.

Assessment: Your response will be assessed pass/fail, based on how adequately and appropriately it addresses the prompt.

Submission guidelines: Late submissions will not be accepted. Please upload to turnitin.com by 7:59 a.m. on the assigned due date.

Any assistance in completing this assignment should be noted in your declaration (including your media source, the novel, and any others). Please carefully keep track of your sources, as students who choose to expand this assignment for the first marking period's major assignment will be required to include a works cited list. I will not tolerate academic dishonesty.