**Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Abigail Adams HW Due Tuesday 2/9**

**Using the letter Abigail Adams wrote to her husband on page 262 of your textbook, answer the following questions.**

1. Within the first paragraph, how does Adams’ engender a sense of guilt in her husband?
2. How is Adams’ completing her duty to her country?
3. What political views does Adams express in the third paragraph? What is her tone? Support with evidence.
4. Adams does not reveal her main point until half way through the letter. What is her argument?
5. What can be inferred about the Adams’ marriage based on this letter?

**Read the following letter John Adams sent to his wife and answer the questions.**

https://www.masshist.org/digitaladams/archive/doc?id=L17760414ja&bc=%2Fdigitaladams%2Farchive%2Fbrowse%2Fletters\_1774\_1777.php

\*Some spelling and grammar have been modernized.

Ap. 14, 1776

You justly complain of my short letters, but the critical state of things and the multiplicity of avocations must plead my excuse. You ask where the fleet is. The enclosed papers will inform you. You ask what sort of defense Virginia can make. I believe they will make an able defense. Their militia and minute men have been some time employed in training themselves, and they have nine battalions of regulars as they call them, maintained among them, under good officers, at the continental expense. They have set up a number of manufactories of fire arms, which are busily employed. They are tolerably supplied with powder, and are successful and assiduous, in making Salt Petre. Their neighboring sister or rather daughter colony of North Carolina, which is a warlike colony, and has several battalions at the continental expense, as well as a pretty good militia, are ready to assist them, and they are in very good spirits, and seem determined to make a brave resistance. -- The gentry are very rich, and the common people very poor.

This inequality of property, gives an aristocratic turn to all their proceedings, and occasions a strong aversion in their patricians, to common sense. But the spirit of these barons, is coming down, and it must submit.

It is very true, as you observe they have been duped by Dunmore. But this is a common case. All the colonies are duped, more or less, at one time and another. A more egregious bubble was never blown up, than the story of commissioners coming to treat with the Congress. Yet it has gained credit like a charm, not only without but against the clearest evidence. I never shall forget the delusion, which seized our best and most sagacious friends the dear Inhabitants of Boston, the winter before last. Credulity and the want of foresight, are imperfections in the human character that no politician can sufficiently guard against.

[…] But ~~[~~*~~illegible~~*~~]~~let us take warning and give it to our children. Whenever vanity, and gaiety, a love of pomp and dress, furniture, equipage, buildings, great company, expensive diversions, and elegant entertainments get the better of the principles and judgments of men or women there is no knowing where they will stop, nor into what evils, natural, moral, or political, they will lead us.

[…] As to your extraordinary code of laws, I cannot but laugh. We have been told that our struggle has loosened the bands of government everywhere. That children and apprentices were disobedient -- that schools and colleges were grown turbulent -- that Indians slighted their guardians and Negroes grew insolent to their masters.

But your letter was the first intimation that another tribe more numerous and powerful than all the rest were grown discontented. -- This is rather too coarse a compliment but you are so saucy, I won’t blot it out.

Depend upon it, we know better than to repeal our masculine systems. Although they are in full force, you know they are little more than theory. We dare not exert our power in its full latitude. We are obliged to go fair, and softly, and in practice you know we are the subjects. We have only the name of masters, and rather than give up this, which would completely subject us to the despotism of the petticoat, I hope General Washington, and all our brave heroes would fight. I am sure every good politician would plot, as long as he would against despotism, empire, monarchy, aristocracy, oligarchy, or ochlocracy. -- A fine story indeed. I begin to think the ministry as deep as they are wicked. After stirring up Tories, Landjobbers, Trimmers, Bigots, Canadians, Indians, Negroes, Hanoverians, Hessians, Russians, Irish Roman Catholics, Scotch Renegades, at last they have stimulated the [blank space] to demand new privileges and threaten to rebel.

1. Why would John provide the information in the first paragraph to Abigail?
2. What causes an “[a]version to Common Sense”?
3. How does Adams’ feel about the actions Bostonians took (see paragraph 3)?
4. What lesson is Adams’ communicating in the fourth paragraph?
5. How does Adams’ tone shift between the fifth and sixth paragraphs?
6. What is Adams’ response to his wife’s view on women’s rights? How does he support his view?