

**Reading Questions: Mill and Harriet Taylor, *The Subjection of Women*; Elizabeth Cady Stanton, “Address to the New York State Legislature;” Sojourner Truth, “Ain’t I a Woman?”**

1. Why is the subject of the equality of women especially difficult to argue about according to Mill and Taylor? Are they right about this? Do other issues share this difficulty?
2. How is the status of women characterized in these works? Whose status is that of women compared to? How, for instance, do Mill and Taylor make use of political analogies to bring out the injustice in the status of women? Also, why does Stanton compare the status of women to that of “negroes?” Consider how people in the middle of the nineteenth century might react to these comparisons.
3. Why does the course of history fail to offer support for the subjection of women according to Mill and Taylor? Why does knowledge more generally play such a large role in the discussion of Chapter I?
4. Given Mill’s views on morality, why do you think he and Taylor feel that they must answer the question of what benefit would accrue to humanity as a whole from the liberation of women? Is this a legitimate question to ask? Consider how your response to this question may reveal your attitude about how we should approach answering moral questions.
5. How will marriage be improved by the liberation of women? What is Mill and Taylor’s ideal of marriage?
6. Is it true that freedom and happiness are linked in the way claimed by Mill and Taylor?
7. Are women in Stanton’s day subjected to unjust political authority? Why or why not? What theory of representation is Stanton using? That is, what does she think it takes for representation to be legitimate? Pay special attention to her comments on the right to trial by jury and the conclusion for her thoughts on representation.
8. Why does Stanton think the interests of man and woman “are and must be antagonistic” to each other in her day?
9. Why does Truth mention giving birth to thirteen children who were sold into slavery?
10. What does Truth add to the debate about the status of women?