

## DO NOW: Answer the questions based on the definition of POWER

## 1) What does power mean?

## 2) What does power imply?

### 3) What does it mean to control something?

## Section 2:

**Directions:** Discuss different types of power with your partner and provide examples of each:

**Social power:** 1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

## Economic power: 1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

**Political power:** 1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

**Physical power:** 1.

2.

**Legal power:** 1.

2.

## Intellectual power: 1.

2.

## Other examples:

What are some positive and negative ways or situations in which these powers can be used?

**Coveture (law):** women had no legal identity when married and everything she did was under a father's or husband's authority.

- This was the guiding belief for centuries regarding the status and opportunities of women in England and here in the American colonies
- The law originates from English common law which the colonists would refer to as a guide for their self-government in the new land
- Women had no individual rights: to own property, sign legal documents, enter into contracts, obtain an education (most colonial girls could read but not write and often signed their name with an "X")

**Part 3 Directions:** For each document, identify how power was displayed using evidence from the document to support your answer.

**1) On Being Brought from Africa to America**

**Phillis Wheatley, 1753-1784**

**(Phillis Wheatley's poems were published in September 1773)**

'Twas mercy brought me from my **Pagan** land,  
Taught my **benighted** soul to understand  
That there's a God, that there's a *Saviour* too:  
Once I redemption neither sought nor knew.  
Some view our race with **scornful** eye,  
"Their colour is a **diabolic** die."  
Remember, *Christians, Negros, black as Cain*,  
May be refin'd, and join th' angelic train.

• *Virginia Commonwealth University*

**In what ways are her published poems an example of power?**

**Vocabulary:**

**Pagan:** a person holding religious beliefs other than those of the main world religions:

**Benighted:** In a state of ignorance because of lack of opportunity.

**Scornful:** feeling that something is beneath you

**Diabolic:** Evil

**Cain:** Biblical figure who killed his brother

## 2) Abigail Adams to John Adams, March- April 1776

I long to hear that you have declared an **independency**. And, by the way, in the new code of laws, which I suppose it will be necessary for you to make, I desire you would remember the ladies and be more generous and favorable to them than your **ancestors**. Do not put such unlimited power into the hands of the husbands. Remember all men would be **dictators** if they could. If particular care and attention is not paid to the ladies, we are determined to (start) a **rebellion** and will not hold ourselves bound by any laws in which we have no voice or representation.

*Letter from Abigail Adams to John Adams, 31 March – 5 April 1776 [electronic edition].*

*Adams Family Papers: An Electronic Archive. Massachusetts Historical Society.*  
<http://www.masshist.org/digitaladams/>

**In letters to her husband, how did Abigail Adams exhibit power and influence?**

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**Independency:**

Independent country

**Ancestors:** A relative from a older than a grandparent

**Dictators:** Ruler with total power

**Rebellion:** To fight against the government

## 3) Abigail Adams to John Adams, March- April 1776

That men are naturally **tyrannical** (extremely mean) is a truth so thoroughly established as to admit of no argument. Why, then, not put it out of the power of the vicious and the lawless to use us with cruelty and without respect. Men of sense in all ages oppose those customs which treat us only as the **vassals** (servants of your sex)

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