

# **A Glorified Failure: The Seneca Falls Convention of 1848**

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**Group Website**

**Senior Division**

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**Process Paper: 461**

We decided on the Seneca Falls Convention as our piece of communication because of the issues that are currently happening regarding feminism today. As women, we felt that it was necessary to shed light on the drawbacks the convention had and bring awareness to how it contributes to the discrimination women face now. We took the 'devil's advocate' perspective because it challenges the traditional conception of the convention and makes our project unique. Our project relates to the annual theme of communication because it demonstrates the variety of ideas expressed through speeches and written works. The convention itself was also a type of communication because it served as a call to action and influenced other women to assemble and continue to press for more conventions in order to achieve change. At the convention, the Declaration of Sentiments was a landmark piece of communication because it provided a basis for future appeals and other amendments for suffrage.

We conducted our research by looking for written works during the time period, using books from the library, and other online sources and databases. We researched various aspects of the Seneca Falls Convention and made sure that we included its leaders, lack of racial inclusiveness, and its failure to bring significant change within its time. These topics allowed us to gain a deeper understanding of the different impacts of the convention and other factors it essentially excluded.

We created our project as a website because we thought it would be visually appealing to our audience, make the information easier to comprehend, and well organized from the usage of an autonavigator. Using a website is also less costly, compared to an exhibit which we did the previous year.

Our historical argument is that although the Seneca Falls Convention brought awareness to the oppression of women and increased new opportunities and rights for women, it failed to bring significant change within its time as well as lacked racial inclusiveness. Although the convention expressed hopes for all women, it was mainly centered around middle class white women rather than other ethnicities such as Native American and African American women, who needed more support.

The historical significance of the Seneca Falls Convention was that it helped launch the women's rights movement in America. The Seneca Falls Convention increased awareness, prospered a series of other women's rights conventions, and its primary piece of communication, the Declaration of Sentiments, would continuously be recited in future protests, events, and other reform. Although the convention lacked immediate change within its time since women didn't gain the right to vote until 1920, it would have never been accomplished if the Seneca Falls Convention didn't occur. The Seneca Falls convention ignited a movement and provoked the fight for equality that women had so eagerly desired.