



Ambitions

Task: Victoria Woodhull's Legacy for Women's Ambitions

Activity 1: Listening

Welcome to a practice listening task for the ISE III.

You are going to hear a talk about **Victoria Woodhull's legacy**. You will hear the talk twice. The first time, just listen. Then I'll ask you to tell me generally what the speaker is talking about. Are you ready?

Audio Script

Delving into the life of 19th-century trailblazer Victoria Woodhull, a woman of great and notable ambitions, she was born in the year of 1838. Victoria Woodhull was not only a suffragist and women's rights advocate but also the first woman to run for the presidency in the United States. In addition to her political pursuits, Woodhull made history as one of the first female stockbrokers on Wall Street, breaking gender barriers in the financial world. Her audacious bid for the highest political office challenged the societal norms of her time, a period when women had few political opportunities, met substantial resistance, and confronted legal obstacles, including being denied the right to vote. Woodhull's life story, marked by her groundbreaking efforts on both Wall Street and in politics, sheds light on the challenges and triumphs of ambitious women in the 19th century. Through women like her, we gain insight into the evolution of opportunities and attitudes toward ambitious women in the present day, drawing inspiration from Woodhull's pioneering spirit and the transformative impact of her contributions to the women's suffrage movement.

In the 19th century, women faced formidable challenges in pursuing ambitions, particularly in the realm of politics. Victoria Woodhull, a pioneer of her time, confronted limited political opportunities as societal norms restricted women's active participation. Her audacious presidential bid challenged traditional gender roles, sparking skepticism and hostility from both society and the media. Legal barriers, including the denial of the right to vote, further constrained ambitious women like Woodhull. The press, instead of offering support, often portrayed her as controversial, raising doubts about a woman's capacity for presidential responsibilities. Woodhull's ambitions unfolded against a backdrop of societal resistance, legal limitations, and media backlash, illustrating the stark contrasts with the more favorable conditions for ambitious women in the 21st century.

In the 21st century, women have seen a remarkable expansion of opportunities to pursue ambitious goals across fields like politics, business, and academia. Furthermore, ambition is now widely regarded as a positive trait for women, marking a departure from the past perception of it being solely masculine. In addition, legal advances have significantly diminished barriers, granting women greater equality in voting, working, and leadership roles. What's more is that modern society actively supports and encourages ambitious women, fostering a positive environment. Moreover, the media landscape has evolved to celebrate and empower ambitious women, portraying them as role models. In contrast to the more localized impact in the 19th century, ambitious women today have a global platform,



influencing international affairs and inspiring positive change. This shift reflects a transformative and empowering era for ambitious women in the contemporary world.

In summary, Victoria Woodhull's audacity and determination, evident in her groundbreaking efforts in politics and finance during the 19th century, have left an enduring legacy. It is obvious that her journey, marked by resilience and progress, paved the way for changing societal attitudes towards ambitious women. Reflecting on the historical and contemporary aspects of ambition, it becomes clear that the increased opportunities, changing societal attitudes, legal advances, media empowerment, and global impact for ambitious women in the 21st century are a testament to the transformative journey sparked by trailblazers like Victoria Woodhull.

Can you tell me in one or two sentences what the speaker was talking about?

Now listen to the talk again. This time make some notes as you listen, if you want to. Then I'll ask you to tell me the point of view of the speaker, women's ambitions in the 19th century and in the 20th century.

Now tell me the point of view of the speaker, women's ambitions in the 19th century and in the 20th century. You have one minute to talk.

This is the end of the listening task.



Answers:

<p>Point of view of the speaker</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woodhull's audacity and determination left an enduring legacy, inspiring a transformative journey for ambitious women.
<p>Women's Ambitions in the 19th Century</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited Political Opportunities: In the 19th century, women had few chances in politics. It was unusual for them to lead. Woodhull's run for president challenged this. • Societal Resistance: Women like Woodhull faced resistance. Many doubted a woman could be president, leading to skepticism and hostility. • Legal Barriers: Women in the 19th century had legal limits, like no voting rights. Woodhull fought for suffrage and equal legal rights. • Media Backlash: Woodhull's presidential ambitions faced media opposition. They often portrayed her as controversial, questioning her ability to handle the presidency as a woman.
<p>Women's Ambitions in the 21st Century</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More Opportunities: Nowadays, women can pursue ambitious goals in various fields like politics, business, and academia. Ambition is now seen as positive for women. • Societal Support: Today, society encourages ambitious women, and ambition is no longer considered just for men. Women are praised for leadership and success. • Legal Progress: Legal barriers for women have reduced. They have more legal equality, including the right to vote, work, and lead, creating a supportive environment. • Media Celebration: Unlike the past, today's media celebrates ambitious women, showing them as role models. Successful women receive positive visibility, changing views on female ambition. • Global Impact: Ambitious women today influence global affairs, inspiring positive change. This is different from the more localized impact of women like Victoria Woodhull in the 19th century.

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