**Topic: Women in Colonial America**

* Pick two colonies (New England, Middle, or Southern colonies) and explain how women's roles differ in the two colonies of your choice.
* Describe what legal rights women held during the colonial period.
* Analyze how Native women's lives were different from colonial women's lives.

Though we often focus on the role of men during the Colonial Era, the colonies would have failed without women's bravery and hard work as well. In Colonial America, women did not have the same rights as they enjoy today, but they still played an essential role in founding America.

Imagine leaving your hometown, your friends, and much of your family to voyage across an ocean for two months in order to land in the wilderness of a new continent in the hopes of making a new life. On the journey itself, you risk shipwreck and contracting a disease. When you get to your destination, there are no stores, farms, or homes. You must make everything from scratch, and you have to be ready for potential attacks from neighboring Native Americans. This is exactly the situation that women (and men) faced in early Colonial America.

The 17th century was an age of uncertainty and adventure, and the women in 17th century America who made the journey had to be resilient, hard-working, and incredibly brave in order to survive. This meant that both men and women had to work together in order to eke out a living in the colonies. As a result, gender roles were actually rather fluid early on. Some colonies, like Jamestown, were initially founded by men, which meant that Jamestown couldn't grow as a colony until women arrived. Both men and women would farm, construct buildings, tend to the house, and raise children. In addition, women would work as nurses, midwives, and even itinerant preachers. Some women even began their lives in Colonial America as indentured servants, meaning they were provided free passage to the colonies in exchange for several years of work in the fields or elsewhere. Land was easily available in Colonial America, and even women could work towards purchasing land--a privilege they would not likely enjoy in Europe.

-> incorporate an additional scholarly source that is no more than 5 years old and is peer reviewed. Cite in APA format.

**Writing Requirements (APA format)**

* Length: 1-2 pages (not including title page or references page)
* Use standard essay writing process by including an introduction, body paragraphs, and a conclusion.
* Double spaced
* 12-point Times New Roman font
* Title page
* References page (minimum of 1 scholarly source)
* No abstract is required
* In-text citations that correspond with your end references