

Paragraph Title: _____

TS. Although ancient Greece developed true democracy in the city-state, women were underprivileged. 1. In Athens during the time of its greatest ruler Pericles, a woman's place was supposed to be in the home, and her main social obligation was to keep silent. 2. Pericles advised women that they should aspire to be anonymous: "The greatest glory of woman is to be least talked about by men, whether they are praising you or criticizing you." 3. But there is evidence that Athenian society did not follow this advice. 4. Athenian drama, both tragedy and comedy, frequently gives women a place of major importance in the dramatic action. 5. *Antigone*, in Sophocles' play about her, motivates the entire action by insisting on giving her brother a proper burial in defiance of the authorities. 6. And *Lysistrata*, in Aristophanes' comedy, uses a thoroughly feminine tactic to force Athens and Sparta to make peace. CL. If women had such essential roles in the world of imagination they must have enjoyed a degree of importance in the real world.

TS. There is much historical evidence to show the importance of women in the home. 1. Ancient Greek gravestones and funeral vases portray scenes of domestic life that are touching and noble. 2. The Athenian marriage had much more to it than the provision of food and children. 3. Public life may have been off bounds to a woman but within her home she was far more than a servant. 4. As head of an operation which in some respects resembled a factory, a wife had a position of considerable responsibility. 5. The home itself was physically simple—minimal furniture and uncomplicated in design—but almost everything that an Athenian family ate and wore was produced at home, under the wife's supervision. 6. On rare occasions a woman's position was even more influential than this. *Aspasia*, the mistress of Pericles, is said to have helped Pericles to write his speeches, and her home was a center of Athenian intellectual life. 7. Pericles loved her enough to divorce his wife for her, and according to another historian, "every day, both as he went out and as he came in from the marketplace, he saluted and kissed her." CL. Although most women did not have a public role in trade and politics, women were important in the family and the culture of Ancient Greece.