***The Speech of Miss Polly Baker* by Benjamin Franklin (p. 350)**

1. This piece first appeared in British newspapers. What reasons might Franklin have had for publishing in England rather than in America?
2. In paragraph 2, what argument does Polly Baker put forth in arguing that her having children without being married should not be considered an offense but, indeed, a benefit to the country?
3. Baker confides that she had accepted a proposal of marriage from a gentleman, but he abandoned her after he “got her with child.” This man then went on to become a magistrate. What is Franklin trying to show his audience about this law?
4. Baker takes into account the argument that the “precepts of religion are violated by my Transgressions” while arguing her own position. Why does she do this? That is, how does her bringing this up help her state her case?

6. State Polly’s argument by filling in the blanks below, creating a **syllogism**:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are sometimes unreasonable. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ laws should be repealed. Fining women for procreating out of wedlock is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**.** Therefore, the law fining women for procreating out of wedlock should be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .

1. What tone does Franklin have Polly use throughout this speech?
2. Baker offers her five children as evidence that her deeds were not a crime. Why does she use them as evidence?
3. How do opinions, values, ideas and arguments concerning having children outside of marriage today compare to those seen in this piece?

How do opinions, values, ideas and arguments concerning gender equity **today** compare to those seen in this piece?