

from A VINDICATION OF THE RIGHTS OF WOMAN

COPY MASTER

# Reading Skill

## USE HISTORICAL CONTEXT

To appreciate the argumentation in *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*, you should have some sense of the essay’s **historical context**, or the social conditions that inspired its creation. Historical context for this essay is provided in the author biography on page 706, the background information on page 708, and the footnotes within the essay.

**Directions:** In the first column of the chart, record statements that you are able to clarify by using the background information and author biography. In the second column, write the explanation for each statement. An example has been done for you.

Statement	Explanation
“[Women] spend many of the first years of their lives in acquiring a smattering of accomplishments.” (lines 66–67)	In Wollstonecraft’s era, girls were schooled primarily in domestic activities.