

Featured Source Examples

Supporting Question 1

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SOURCE D: Amy McGrath and Chris Peterson, excerpt from *Honor Bound: An American Story of Dreams and Service*, 2021

CONTEXT: As a veteran and one of the first female fighter pilots to serve in combat, Amy McGrath's teenage years were defined by her determination to challenge the barriers that prevented women from serving in combat roles in the military. Her relentless advocacy for gender equality was marked by active research, outreach to politicians, and a steadfast commitment to overturning restrictive laws.

"I was shocked. How could that be? I was competing with and beating boys my age in every sport I played. I was as dedicated and patriotic as anyone in Edgewood, and I simply wasn't going to buy that there was a physical challenge I couldn't handle. But the law was going to stop me from reaching my newfound passion? My new goal in life? The idea of flying one of those planes at the speed of sound and beyond, defending America while I did it, spoke to me in a way no other possible future ever had. The only thing that came close was the possibility of playing second base for the Cincinnati Reds, and that really did seem like a bridge too far. I wasn't going to accept that a law stood in the way of my dream. I switched gears. I did different research and went down the rabbit hole

of federal legislation—how laws were enacted, reformed, and, most important, repealed.

It wasn't the first time I had felt marginalized because of my gender. I had chafed at many of the Catholic Church's teachings and practices regarding women. It is an archly conservative, patriarchal institution. It made no sense to me that women could not be priests. I couldn't even be an altar boy as my brother had been. The church was different, though. At fourteen, I understood that the Catholic Church was not a democracy. The layperson could not effect profound change within the church. The best you could do was question the tenets of your faith, seek answers, and hold your own counsel.

But the law? Heck yeah, the law could change. That there was even a law that limited women's role in the military pissed me off. At fourteen, I vented mightily in my journal:

I read something that made me so angry. The stupid, prejudice, ignorant rule about women in combat. Which does not let women fly fighters or go on a ship at sea except for a stupid refueling ship. I am so angry about that. It wasn't because we weren't smart enough. It was because of the physical differences. That's what the books and congress said. It doesn't take much muscle to use a computer on a destroyer, to find enemy subs on a radar or sonar, to watch and call for next flights on an aircraft carrier, or to be a pilot. There are stress levels under high-G circumstances, but even the scientific tests prove there is no difference on how the two sexes cope under those kinds of situations. Ever since

I was very young, I played football, and baseball, collected baseball cards, watched WrestleMania, watched every football game I could and just about any other thing stupid people would call "boy things." At Mercy the motto was "you can be what you want to be!" I always thought that was true. Out of all the things I wanted to be, I picked the one thing I couldn't—not because I wasn't smart enough—not because I wasn't physically capable but because I was a girl, a female, but now all of a sudden a second-class citizen. It hurts. Sometimes it tears me apart so much I cry. It makes me wonder, why care? I pray it will change soon. I still have some hope and I still have a dream!

PS: dear Lord, please make some of this unfair prejudice go away."

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