INSTRUCTIONS: For each topic, analyze the meaning using details from the selections. Be sure to give attention to the audiences chosen for the topic, then add some of your own. Include as many social and gender factors as possible for each character. Use the index to find page numbers for topic selections.

Topic 1: Turner, “Tintern Abbey”

Discuss this painting as an example of Romantic views of nature. How is nature portrayed? How is architecture portrayed? What is the reaction of an architect from the industrial era to the Abbey? How would the Transcendentalist react to the Abbey? How might an architect react to this scene?

Topic 2: Chopin, “Story of An Hour”

Discuss how this short story fit into the idea of realism in the 19th century. How might Chopin’s life have influenced her story? What is her perspective on marriage and why? How would a man of the 19th and 20th centuries react to her main character? Would a modern woman relate to the main character of this story, why or why not? Does Chopin say anything relevant to single career women in the present?

Topic 3: Matthew Brady, “Dead Confederate Soldier” (94)

Discuss how pictures like this turned art into social criticism. What was Brady’s intent for the photo? What purposes could it be used for during and after the war? How would different audiences (southern vs northern, parents vs single) react and why? Compare to the Goya’s “Brave Deeds Against the Dead” (52) as illustrations of war.