

Spring 2024 Syllabus
Instructor: Helen Schwartz
Fateful Documents

1 st week: The Mayflower Compact (1620) handout in class

2nd week: Treaty of New Echota

<http://digital.library.okstate.edu/kappler/vol2/treaties/che0439.htm#mn1>

3 rd: Seneca Falls Women’s Declaration of Sentiments in 1848

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/Senecafalls.html>

4 th week: Lincoln’s Emancipation Declaration (1863)

<https://www.archives.gov/exhibits/featured-documents/emancipation-proclamation/transcript.html>

5th week: Margaret Sanger’s “Family Limitation” pamphlet on birth control (1914)

<https://archive.lib.msu.edu/DMC/AmRad/familylimitations.pdf> Note the “rhetoric”: who are the audiences (primary and secondary), what gives authority to the writer? What register (kind) of language is used? [What, if anything, surprised you?]

6th week: Einstein’s letter to FDR (1942)

<https://www.atomicarchive.com/resources/documents/beginnings/einstein.html>

This particular page gives some good background context

7 th week: Martin Luther King, Jr’s Letter from Birmingham Jail (1963)

<http://letterfromjail.com>

8th week: Week 8 (4/24): Surgeon General C. Everett Koop public health pamphlet on AIDS (handout)