

In-Class Activity

Reading for Previous Class Session:

Secondary Reading: Carroll Smith-Rosenberg, "The Female World of Love and Ritual: Relations between Women in Nineteenth-Century America," *Signs* 1, no. 1 (Autumn, 1975): 1-29.

Reading for Class:

Secondary Reading: Jane E. Simonsen, "The House Divided: Class and Race in the Married Woman's Home," in *Making Home Work: Domesticity and Native American Assimilation in the American West, 1860-1919*

Primary Sources:

- "Introduction and Preface" in [*Domestic economy, a new cookery book. Containing numerous valuable receipts for aid in housekeeping.*](#) (1882)
- [*Mrs. Gilpin's frugalities. Remnants and 200 ways of using them.*](#) (1883), pages v-vi.

In-Class Discussion of Elements of 19th Century Correspondence

*Note: We will go through a late 19th century letter, breaking down the different elements of a typical letter, before we begin the activity.

Activity:

Imagine that you are a white woman living in the US West during the late nineteenth-century. Based on your knowledge about politics, labor, and culture, along with the similar letters you have read throughout the semester, your group should write a letter that integrates family news and updates with real world events and the challenges of domestic life and labor in the West.