3) Assess the extent to which women participated in, and benefited from, the shifting values of European society from the 15th to the end of the Napoleonic era.

I. Introduction
   A. Contextualization: From the 15th century to the 18th century, European society was changing. Questions about the natural rights of citizens arose and the Old Regime society was beginning to transition. However, women during this time did not see an improvement in their rights in the way men did, despite them playing a critical role in society.
   B. Thesis: Women played an important role in changing the ideas of the society, furthering Enlightened ideas, but they benefitted little from political and social reform.
   C. Argument: In many ways, after the Napoleonic era, women had less rights and freedoms than during the Old Regime,

II. Body Paragraph 1: (Topic Sentence) Women played a crucial role in changing the values of European society during the Enlightenment, through their hosting of philosophes and their involvement in the French Revolution.
   A. (Evidence) Upper class women spread the ideas of the Enlightenment in hosting salons.
      1. Analysis: Philosophes used these noble women’s salon hostings in order to make a name for themselves, share ideas, and spread their beliefs. Without these women, the ideas of the Enlightenment would have been much less influential. Salons provided women with an opportunity to participate in advancing society.
   B. (Evidence) The Women’s Bread March to Versailles during the French Revolution involved the populace in the revolution.
      1. Analysis: Because of these peasant women, the royal family was forced to move to Paris. The strength of these women also was one of the first instances when peasants influenced monarchical power in such a large way.

III. Body Paragraph 2: (Topic) Despite their involvement in the revolutionary times, women saw little change in their own rights during this time of societal views shifting.
   A. (Evidence) Rousseau’s *Emilie* described women as being in a separate domestic sphere from men, not belonging in the political realm.
      1. Analysis: Women’s role did not improve from the Enlightenment. Their place was still seen as in the home, with their main purpose being to raise children.
   B. (Evidence) Olympe de Gouges composed the *Declaration of the Rights of Women* in response to the absence of women’s rights as a part of natural rights being discussed by revolutionaries.
      1. Analysis: Despite this, women did not gain the right to vote or hold office. They still lacked quality educational opportunity and divorce and property rights.

IV. Conclusion:
   A. Conclusion: Women contributed to the changing of European society by promoting new ideas and acting out against the Old Regime; however, their lives were not greatly benefitted by any changes in the law.
   B. Synthesis: The role of women in changing societal ideas during this time period is similar to the women’s suffrage movement during the 19th and 20th centuries. Women pushed for more rights including the right to vote, hold office, and to control property. Feminist movements also pushed for equal pay, more liberal divorce laws, and to legalize abortion.