

The Equal Rights Amendment as an Issue of Distributive Justice		
	Pro-ERA in the 1970s	Anti-ERA in the 1970s
What benefit or burden is to be distributed?	Full political and civil rights and responsibilities for both men and women	
Who are the persons being considered to receive the benefit or burden?	Women	Women and men.
Need: What did each side think about women's need for the amendment?	Those in favor of the ERA in the 1970s believed that this amendment was necessary to women's equality. They believed that without it women would not have equal educational opportunities, that they would be treated unequally by the judicial system, that they would make less money and have less opportunity in the workplace, and that they would remain second-class citizens of the United States. They did not believe that the Fourteenth Amendment or any other laws were adequate in protecting women's rights. They believed that total equality would not come to women without the ERA.	Those opposed to the ERA believed that women and the family benefited from laws that "imposed different obligations on men and women." They believed that women needed the distinctions commonly made between the sexes. Therefore, women needed the ERA <i>not</i> to become law. Furthermore, they believed the amendment was not needed because existing laws—such as Title IX—required equal educational opportunities, and laws such as the Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1972 protected women from discriminatory wages. Finally, they believed that the Fourteenth Amendment provided adequate equality.
Capacity: What did each side think about women's capacity to deal with the amendment if it passed?	Pro-ERA groups believed that women were as capable as men. They believed that women could work the same hours and in the same conditions, that they were capable of serving in the military, serving on juries, and of supporting themselves financially.	Anti-ERA groups believed that women did not have the capacity to support themselves financially, did not have the capacity to serve in the military, did not have the capacity to do heavy manual work.
Desert: What did each side think about what women deserved with regard to the amendment?	ERA supporters believed that women deserved to the responsibilities and rights of full equality, including the costs and the benefits. They believed that women deserved to be treated the same as men.	ERA opponents believed women deserved to be treated differently than men. They believed women deserved to be protected from the draft and military service, protected financially, and should have greater custodial rights than men. Thus, they believed women deserved not to have such an amendment.
List the values that affected each side's opinion about this issue?	Answers will vary, some examples: Justice Equality Freedom	Answers will vary, some examples: Justice Responsibility Privacy

What interests affected each side's opinion about this issue?	Answers will vary, some examples: Higher wages Increased status in society Greater responsibility Greater opportunity	Answers will vary, some examples: Strong families Financial and physical protection Traditional gender roles
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