

Notorious RBG Viewing Guide

Has there ever been a more improbable cult icon than the 85 year old, hunched over barely 5' justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg? This documentary, *RBG*, takes a linear approach to the bulk of Ginsburg's life. *While most Americans think of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg as a progressive superhero and the beacon of left-leaning thinking on a court that veers ever-rightward, this raucous and informative documentary portrait reveals the complex history that brought her to this point. From her legal career as a pioneer of gender discrimination cases to her friendship with Antonin Scalia to her long and love-filled marriage, filmmakers West and Cohen reveal a deep thinker as well as an icon who lives up to her star billing.*

Prior to the film answer the following.

When you think of the adults who raised you, did gender impact the roles they performed regarding work, home life, and child care? How and why do you think that was?

After the film answer the following.

How do you think Ruth's mother's death has impacted the rest of Ruth's life? What values did her mother instill in RBG?

Describe RBG's education. Why was it especially difficult for her?

When did RBG start to truly comprehend the inferior role women played in American society? (She later called this experience "three strikes" as she was Jewish, female, and a mother.) Explain:

What does the film say caused the women's movement in the early 1970s?

You might be able to argue that RBG's time as an attorney, especially when she argued before the Supreme Court was more valuable even than her time on the supreme court. How did RBG contribute to the women's movement as a co-founding attorney of the Women's Rights Project of the ACLU ?

How did she respond when she faced degradation or insult from the justices?

What are the significant changes RBG helped make in these cases:

- *Frontiero v. Richardson*

- *Califano v. Goldfarb*

- *Ledbetter v. Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co*

As a Justice, Ginsburg says at one point she felt like a kindergarten teacher when it came to instructing other judges about the meaning of sexual discrimination. How would she try and make it personal to the male judges around her?

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Describe Marty. What do you think his influence may have been on Ginsburg's role in the legal system?

How and why has the role of RBG changed during her time on the supreme court? Some say that Ginsburg's dissenting opinions are more significant than her majority ones. How is this possible, since it means that her side lost?

Tradition dictates that the Supreme Court Justices are not supposed to openly discuss or advertise their opinions on political candidates. RBG believed that Hillary Clinton was facing criticism during the election process that no man would face. Do you think RBG's role in criticizing Donald Trump was unfounded? Explain:

In a paragraph consider the following. Every constitution written in the world since 1950 guarantees equal status to women, but they are still not completely equal under the U.S. Constitution. ERA failed to pass, America has never had a female president, and we have distinctly fewer women in significant governmental positions. Women, as you know earn only middle tier scrutiny as a suspect class versus questions of race and religion. The 14th Amendment and the Civil Rights Act of 1964 afford women significant protections but what will it take for women to be seen as equal to men in the United States?

Read this article and discuss the importance of RBG's epic dissents (below): <https://www.bustle.com/articles/30059-4-epic-ruth-bader-ginsburg-dissents-that-prove-shes-a-badass>