

Mary Ann Shadd Cary (1823-1893) was an African American writer, newspaper publisher, educator, lawyer and abolitionist. In 1851 she went from the United States to Canada to work with the fugitive community (the escaped slaves and the freed slaves who crossed the border into Canada after the United States Congress passed the Fugitive Slave Act). She soon began publishing the newspaper *Provincial Freeman* to link the fugitives and to promote the antislavery cause.

The passage below is from an editorial (“Why Establish This Paper?”) that appeared in the second issue of the *Provincial Freeman* (March 25, 1854). Read the passage carefully, considering the circumstances in which it was written. Then, in a carefully written essay, analyze the techniques Mary Ann Shadd Cary uses to establish the necessity of her newspaper.

We need an organ, too, for making our voice heard at home. Some of our wants, grievances and demands are peculiar to ourselves. It is so with other classes. We form a considerable element in the political constitution of our country, one way and another. As the great country grows, we grow with it; as it improves and progresses, we are carried forward on the bosom of its onward tide. Questions will arise affecting us as a class, which we must know how skillfully and efficiently to meet. To be always at the skillfully and efficiently to meet. To be always at the mercy of the demagogue of the hour is neither safe, dutiful, nor in any sense becoming. We must allow our fellow subjects to know who we are and what we want, through our own authorized mouth-piece. Hence we must have a mouth-piece. Is not that plain?

Besides, it is due to our Constitution and Government, that we should train ourselves so as to fit us for the discharge of the duties of freemen, in full. Such freemen we never were before; and hence the need of our being fitted as well to look after our rights and interests as to discharge our duties, -- We beg to ask especial attention to those two points. They are, to our own mind matters of importance. Indeed, upon our first arrival in Canada they struck us forcibly; and every day, their importance to us has increased.

We say it in no ill spirit, but whatever blame may be cast upon us for saying it, it is neither to be denied nor concealed that there is not and never was a newspaper in Canada which represented the intelligence of colored Canadians; never one, whose respectability made it such a paper, as in a free country we need not be ashamed of. We do not ask the friends of the Paper, nor the Publishing Committee, nor the Stockholders, to be responsible for this remark. We say it on our own responsibility, and if anybody chooses to find fault with it, let him write to us, and he shall have his say in our columns. But we venture to say that our statement is simply true.

We beg to add, that none of the papers published by our people, in the States, answer our purpose. They either pass us by, in cold contempt, ignore us altogether, keep themselves or their readers, or both, ignorant of what Canada is, or in some other way, by opposition or neglect disparaging us, as much as convenient. They will do us but very little good. We recollect a paper, of small size, published and edited by a Mr. *What do you call him?* called the *Impartial Citizen*,

wherein there never was one column of information concerning Canada. And *one* of the reasons was the Editor knew next to nothing about Canada. We fear that other Editors in the States will be of as little service to us as that gentleman *then* was.

Good friends, we have a paper because we think we need one, and we have told you some reasons why. Do you agree with us?

S	O	A	P	S
<p>The subject of the piece is about the racial discrimination in the government. She mentions that the freemen were never really free. This is a reference to the Declaration of Independence where they said all men were equal. However, they never were able to make this a reality and repeatedly took advantage of people who were not part of the elite groups of whites. This is what the author is attempting to address.</p>	<p>The time period that this piece was written was a time of great hardship for African Americans. This was before the civil rights movement and during the abolitionist movement. It would have been dangerous to express opinions.</p>	<p>The audience of this piece would have been the other African Americans living in America. The author mentions the state of the “coloreds” in Canada. The author is appealing to her audience by referencing people that they could relate to. She wants them to see that not all people like them are being treated as poorly as they are.</p>	<p>The purpose is to highlight the injustices that are happening the country. She is trying to persuade them to take action and bring change to the world.</p>	<p>The speaker is an African American woman. This really builds her ethos and helps her connect with her audience. She is the epitome of discrimination. She has little rights because of her race, and on top of that, she loses rights because she is a woman.</p>

D	I	D	L	S
<p>The details that are used in this Editorial are chosen based on what people would know. She makes examples out of our government, our papers, our publishing committee, our stockholders. She is making examples out of the powerhouses in our neighborhood in an attempt to exhibit their prejudice and corruption.</p>	<p>The imagery used in this piece is based on the author's comparison with an organ. The author uses an organ to symbolize the nation and create a picture in the reader's head. Each piece makes up a whole kind of how each person in our nation helps create a larger organization.</p>	<p>The diction in this piece is less formal than something I would expect from this time period. Generally the language would be closer to the British grammar rules, but in this case the words and arrangements are closer to how modern authors choose to convey their meanings.</p>	<p>The language is interesting. The author doesn't use a great deal of imagery or appeals to the reader's logic. However, when she does it impacts the audience in a powerful way. Perhaps the rarity is what gives it its umph.</p>	<p>The syntax is similar to the diction. The arrangement of words and sentences isn't complex. This makes the piece user friendly and easy to understand. This would have been important for her audience to understand.</p>