

Choi also faced a problem pointed out by classmates: how to make a smooth transition from recalling her own experience to probing causes.

*(emphasize that everyone thinks that) → widely*

These attitudes toward women, <sup>^</sup>which I once believed to be the continuation of an unbroken chain of tradition, are, in fact, only a few hundred years old. During the first half of the Yi dynasty, which lasted from 1392 to 1910, and during <sup>[tell when]</sup> [the Koryo period,] women were treated almost as equals, with many privileges that were denied them during the latter half of the Yi dynasty. This upheaval in women's place in Korean society was brought about by one of the greatest influences that shaped the government, literature, and thoughts of the Korean people: Confucianism.

*, a relatively short time, considering Korea's long history*

Because of Confucianism, my birth was not greeted with joy and celebration but rather with these words of consolation: "A daughter is her mother's chief help in keeping house."

*(belongs in opening paragraph)*