

Highlight evidence that Joan is an admirable person (e.g., is a visionary, feminist, patriot, shrewd leader, devout Christian, self-sacrificing woman).

Positive comments about Joan

Joan's supporters were often from the following groups:

- peasants from the area surrounding her village;
- villagers and citizens whose towns Joan helped to free from the English;
- members of the clergy who gave sacraments to her or who examined her prior to her trial;
- knights and lords who fought beside her.

Their testimonies were heard at the Trial of Nullification twenty-five years after her initial trial, the Trial of Condemnation, where she was found guilty of witchcraft and heresy and was burned at the stake.

Joan's military leadership

1. "It was said that Jeanne was as expert as possible in the art of ordering an army into battle, and that even a captain bred and instructed in war could not have shown more skill; at this the captains marveled exceedingly." **Maitre Aignan Viole (Licentiate in Law, Advocate of the Court of Parliament)**

Joan's ability as a military leader

2. "In all she did, except in affairs of war, she was a very simple young girl; but for warlike things, bearing the lance, assembling an army, ordering military operations, directing artillery [weapons of war such as crossbows and siege equipment]—she was most skillful. Everyone wondered that she could act with as much wisdom and foresight as a captain who had fought for twenty or thirty years. It was above all in making use of artillery that she was so wonderful." **Jean (Duke d'Alençon)**

The injustices of Joan's trial

3. "I know well that Jeanne has no director, Counsel, nor defender, up to the end of the Process [trial], and that no one would have dared to offer himself as her Counsel, director, or defender, for fear of the English. I have heard that those who went to the Castle to counsel and direct Jeanne, by order of the Judges, were harshly repulsed [spoken to] and threatened." **Brother Martin Ladvenu (priest)**

The English reaction to Joan

4. "I think the English feared Jeanne more than the whole of the rest of the army of the King of France, and that this fear it was which moved them, in my opinion, to bring the Process against her."
Messire Pierce Lebouchier (Priest)

The English motivation for Joan's death

5. "Jeanne had done marvels in war, and, as the English are commonly superstitious, they thought there was a fate with her. Therefore, in my opinion, they, in all their counsels and elsewhere, desired her death."
Messire Thomas Marie (Priest)

Joan's devotion

6. "From her early youth, Jeannette was brought up with care in the Faith, and in good morals; she was so good that all the village of Domremy loved her. Jeannette knew her Belief and her Pater ["Our Father" in Latin; a prayer] and Ave ["The Ave Maria"; a prayer] as well as any of her companions. She had modest ways, as becomes one whose parents were not rich. Up to the time she left her parents she followed the plough and sometimes minded [looked after] the cattle in the fields. Also she did the usual duties of women, such as spinning, and other things. I know it pleased her to go often to the Hermitage of the Blessed Marie of Bermont [a convent], near Domremy. Often I saw her go there. She was there when her parents thought her with the plough or into the fields; and when she heard the Mass-bell, if she were in the fields, she would go back to the village and to the Church, in order to hear Mass..."
Jean Morel (labourer near Domremy)

Joan's Christian values

7. "She was a good and modest woman, living as a Catholic, very pious [religious], and when she could, never failing to be present at the Mass. To hear blasphemies [cursing or swearing in God's name] upon the Name of Our Lord vexed [annoyed] her. Many times when the Duke d'Alençon swore or blasphemed before her, I heard her reprove [express disappointment in] him. As a rule, no one in the army dared swear or blaspheme before her, for fear of being reprimanded." **Louis de Contes (Chamberlain to the Duke d'Orléans)**

Joan's goodness

8. “She was a girl of good disposition, devout [very committed to her faith], patient, loving the Church, going often to confession, and giving to the poor all that she could. I can attest this, having been witness thereof, both at Domremy and at my own house at Burey, where she passed [stayed] six weeks.”

Durand Laxart (Joan's uncle)

Joan's commitment to her faith

9. “When she was given over by the Church, I was still with her, and with great devotion she asked to have a Cross; and hearing this, an Englishman, who was there present, made a little cross of wood with the ends of a stick, which he gave her, and devoutly she received and kissed it, making piteous lamentations [sorrowful moans] and acknowledgements of God, Our Redeemer, Who had suffered on the Cross for our Redemption, of Whose Cross she had the sign and symbol; and she put the said Cross in her bosom [chest], between her person and her clothing. And, besides, she asked me humbly that I would get her the Church Cross, so that she might see it continually until death.” **Maitre Jean Massieu (Priest)**

Joan's ability to foresee the future

10. “I saw Jeanne for the first time at Poitiers. And then she foretold [predicted] to us—to me and to all the others who were with me—these four things which should happen, and which did afterwards come to pass; first, that the English would be destroyed, the siege [attack] of Orléans raised, and the town delivered from the English; secondly that the King would be crowned at Reims; thirdly, that Paris would be restored to his dominion [rule]; and fourthly, that the Duke d’Orléans should be brought back from England. And I who speak, I have in truth seen these four things accomplished. We reported all this to the Council of the King; and we were of opinion that, considering the extreme necessity and the great peril [danger] of the town, the King might make use of her help and send her to Orléans.”

Brother Séguin de Séguin (Dean of the Faculty of Theology of Poitiers)