I felt that while reviewing this essay I really looked at elements from each individual paragraph and “the bigger picture.” My peer had a very unified essay—always coming back to the main idea throughout each of her paragraphs—so I really focused us on helping her add evidence to her commentary and rewording her sentences to make her ideas more concise. This essay demonstrates my best skills as a reviewer because this essay had so much potential. I felt that I did not “edit” this paper but really reviewed it—focusing not on the nit-picky errors, like grammar, but instead on its content and coherence.

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The Transformation of Female Cherokee Gender Roles

In his Notes on the State of Virginia, United States' President Thomas Jefferson states [Cherokee] women are subjected to unjust drudgery. This I believe is the case with every barbarous ..., other words, President Jefferson believed that the gender roles of Cherokee women were inhumane and must be corrected through civilization programs. Therefore, he enforced these particular programs like his predecessors, which instilled Euro-American values and encouraged Cherokee women to adopt more domestic duties rather than agricultural and political. Because of this, the gender role of Cherokee women slowly began to shift, and their new responsibilities became solidified through the prospects of Cherokee Removal.

Before the influence of the United States, the Cherokee nation was thriving in terms of agricultural growth. This was partly due to the Cherokee's solid establishment of known gender roles. For instance, men consciously knew that their place in the tribe was one of a hunter. They were expected to supply their families with meat to be used in meals and animal skins to be used for clothing. Women, on the other hand, were deemed as farmers. They cultivated the land, planted seeds,
and raised the tribe's crops. Ultimately, these given tasks of both Cherokee women and men aided the tribe in terms of consumption and trade, which allowed for the continued growth of the nation.

Not only did the recognized establishment of Cherokee gender roles add to agricultural growth, but it also contributed to political prowess. Both Cherokee women and men were encouraged to voice their opinion in council meetings. They did this by "speak[ing] one at a time, in a deliberate voice, slowly and calmly." No one interrupted the orators whether they were male or female. Instead, "everyone waited politely for the [speaker] to conclude. Then the next [person] would rise and without gesture give his [or her] arguments."

Also, women were allowed to decide the fate of captives, participate in treaty negotiations, and sign deeds conveying land titles such as to the Proprietors of Carolina. This inclusion of women in council meetings and other political issues provided the tribe with multiple perspectives, which then allowed the council and native officials to make conscious decisions for the betterment of the Cherokee nation.

However, these particular roles, especially those concerning women, were unacceptable according to the United States. Americans firmly believed that Cherokee women were being treated unfairly. They thought the females were being forced to perform tasks that were not suitable for their gender. For example, women, in compliance to Euro-American values, were not to exhaust their skills in labor outside of the home. This meant that a woman's place was in her household and not in the field. Also, a woman had no business in politics according to this particular Euro-American mindset. A woman's reign only went as far as her home and did not carry on into the decision making process of the nation.

Therefore, the U.S. government and missionaries took it upon themselves to implement what came to be known as Civilization programs. These programs instilled Euro-American views of a woman's role, A

This was accomplished through the teaching of tribal women on how to upkeep the household, dress appropriately, and act in a lady-like manner. Once
instructed, the United States believed that the Cherokee women would become liberated. No longer would they be regarded as slaves in comparison to Cherokee men. Instead, women would be held in higher estimation. In fact, Return J. Meigs, the Cherokee agent in Tennessee at the time, states in his journal that civilization programs allowed Cherokee women to be viewed as delicate creatures in the and love are concomitant between the sexes, love is becoming a .

Due to these civilization programs implemented by the United States, the gender role of Cherokee women slowly began to change. The majority of women were no longer found working in the fields since now they were not required to farm the land. Also, less women were found present at council meetings since they were no longer expected to voice their opinions over political matters. In fact, these tasks were now taken over by Cherokee males. Thus, women took up housekeeping as their primary concern. While their husband were out farming, hunting, and attending council meetings, Cherokee women could be found at home, busy taking care of their children and preparing dinner.

This shift in the gender roles of women finally came to a close once Cherokee Removal commenced in the mid 1800's. Due to the passing of the U.S. Cherokee Removal Act, the entirety of the Cherokee nation was forced to move out west for multiple reasons. These reasons included the increasing fear that the Cherokee were becoming too powerful as a nation and the United States' need for more land to satisfy a growing population. Because of this, the Cherokee found these justifications and the situation as a whole quite troubling, so many council meetings were held to discuss the pressing matter of removal. Whereas women beforehand would have taken an active role in this discussion, the majority of them no longer did so, for they believed men to be better suited in solving political issues. Therefore, instead of attending council meetings to talk about the uncertain future of the Cherokee nation, women left those distressing matters up to the men while they were at home taking care of the children and cooking meals. This can be seen in the signing of the Treaty of New Echota in 1835, for only Cherokee men signed this document. This is quite a change in regards to
gender roles, for women used to take an interest in important matters that concerned the nation, especially in ones that would relinquish all Cherokee territory in the southeast to the United States government in exchange for land in what would come to be known as Oklahoma. Due to this lack of involvement, the political power of Cherokee women was lost and their new stations in the domestic sphere became a permanent transition.

NEED HELP

-------------- paragraph about why this is all important yes
-------------- conclusion (the above could be your conclusion — ties everything together with no new evidence).
-------------- What format do I use for this paper? Footnotes or Works Cited?

Victoria's revision:

Two strengths:
--Very well unified essay!
--There was an easy flow from ideas — I can easily follow your direction.

One thing to work on:
--Adding evidence to some paragraphs to show support for the claim of the paragraph. You have a lot of commentary at times… just make sure to add some primary support.