Gender & Justice Institute

Sponsored by the Women’s Studies Program at Indiana University - Purdue University Fort Wayne
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Zines

- Zines are do-it-yourself or self-published magazines that are circulated in small numbers.

- Riot grrrl

- Hands-on medium for you to express your thoughts, feelings, experiences, and work.
Introductions

• Name
• School
• Favorite movie
• Favorite TV show
• Favorite musical artist
• Favorite book
• Three words that come to mind when you think of feminism
Popular Definitions

• Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie: “the social, political, and economic equality of the sexes.”

• *Emma Watson*: “equality: socially, politically and economically.”

• Lena Dunham: “Feminism doesn't mean you want to like take a stand and kill all the men and create your own planet. It means that you believe that you deserve all the same things that people who were born not of your gender deserve.”
Dictionary Definitions

- Oxford Dictionary: “The advocacy of women’s rights on the grounds of political, social, and economic equality to men.”

- Merriam-Webster Dictionary: “The theory of the political, economic, and social equality of the sexes,” “organized activity on behalf of women's rights and interests.”
Fawcett (1878) and Hale (1914)

- Each and every woman should have “the opportunity of becoming the best that her natural faculties make her capable of.”

- Feminism is the stage of the progress of democratic freedom that applies to women.
Mitchell and Oakley (1976) and Hartsock (1979)

- “A method of analysis as well as a discovery of new material. It asks new questions as well as coming up with new answers. Its central concern is with the social distinction between men and women, with the fact of this distinction, with its meanings, and with its causes and consequences.”

- “Is a mode of analysis, a method of approaching life and politics, a way of asking questions and searching for answers, rather than a set of political conclusions about the oppression of women.”
Jain (1978) and Lewin (1983)

- Feminism is women uniting as women to generate “a force which presses society to accept and accommodate femaleness as equal, even if different, in its attributes.”

- “Is a theory that calls for women’s attainment of social, economic, and political rights and opportunities equal to those possessed by men. Feminism is also a model for a social state—an ideal, or a desired standard of perfection not yet attained in the world.”
Combahee River Collective (1977)

- “We are actively committed to struggling against racial, sexual, heterosexual, and class oppression and see as our particular task the development of integrated analysis and practice based upon the fact that the major systems of oppression are interlocking. The synthesis of these oppressions creates the conditions of our lives. As Black women we see Black feminism as the logical political movement to combat the manifold and simultaneous oppressions that all women of color face.”
bell hooks (1981)

• “Is a commitment to eradicating the ideology of domination that permeates Western culture on various levels—sex, race, and class, to name a few—and a commitment to reorganizing U.S. society, so that the self-development of people can take precedence over imperialism, economic expansion, and material desires.”

• “To be “feminist” in any authentic sense of the term is to want for all people, female and male, liberation from sexist role patterns, domination, and oppression.”
bell hooks (2000)

• “Simply put, feminism is a movement to end sexism, sexist exploitation, and oppression. [...] Practically, it is a definition which implies that all sexist thinking and action is the problem, whether those who perpetuate it are female or male, child or adult.”
What does a feminist look like?

What is something a feminist might say?

What is your definition of feminism?
Why do you need feminism?
I NEED FEMINISM BECAUSE...
SOME OF MY FRIENDS WILL LAUGH AT ME FOR DOING THIS.
I need feminism because...

I considered not getting this photo taken because I'm not wearing make up.
I NEED FEMINISM
BECAUSE
People still ask what the victim was wearing.
I need feminism because women's magazines are still all about pleasing men.
I need feminism because when I did work experience at a GARDEN CENTRE, only boys were allowed to work outside with the plants.
I NEED FEMINISM

BECAUSE I'M SICK OF

BEING TOLD WHAT IS AND

ISN'T SELF RESPECT
I need Feminism
because I'm tired of being patronized and called selfish for choosing not to have children!
I need feminism because I get more credit for being a feminist than she does.
I NEED FEMINISM
Because little girls are still being told that boys hitting or teasing means "he likes YOU."

- Feminism
- Intersection
- Identity
- Socialization
- Advocacy
- Sexism
- Globalization
- Hegemony
- Power
- Gender
- Activism
- Religion
- Race
- Equality
- Oppression
- Pronouns
- Gender
- Family
- Inclusivity
- Objectification
- Rights
- Gender
I need feminism because...

the word 'slut' is still used to make people feel ashamed of their bodies.
WHO NEEDS FEMINISM?

I Need Feminism because I plan to have both children and a career.

FACEBOOK.COM/WHONEEDSFEMINISM
Because people still think jokes about raping someone are funny.
I need feminism because... I don't want my daughter to have to write one of these boards.
Gender & the Culture of High School
School Dress Code


“Slut-Shaming”

“Hester-Pryne Style Humiliation”
Dress code “violators”

- Leggings, stretch pants, and Yoga pants (skinny, wide, long, cropped, or short) must be worn with a fingertip top, dress, shorts or skirt.
- No tank tops or spaghetti straps. Shoulders must be completely covered and have sleeves. Shirts will not be low cut revealing cleavage.
- No tights worn as pants.
- Shorts and skirts will be finger tip length (all the way around) when arms are extended down and you are standing straight.

“Young women are not a distraction to education. We are not just our body.”

MARI TUFTS
Dress Code

• Have there been any changes about dress code at your high school? If so, what are they?
• Is clothing “distracting” to the school environment? Who determines what is distracting? Whose bodies?
• Who gets in trouble for dress code at your school?
• Have you ever been in trouble for violating dress code? If so, what were you wearing? Do you think you should have been in trouble?
School Dress Code

Why is it okay for girls to wear revealing skirts while cheerleading but not while sitting in class?
Classes
Classes-IPFW

- ENG L372- Contemporary American Fiction
  - Description:
    - American fiction of the last 20 years, including such writers as Bellow, Barth, Didion, Malamud, Pynchon, and Updike.
Classes-IPFW

ENG L102- Western World Masterpieces II: Renaissance to Modern

• Description:
  • Plays, poems, and fiction from the 16th century to the present, including works by Shakespeare, Ibsen, Shaw, Wordsworth, Whitman, Yeats, Dostoevsky, Faulkner, Hemingway.
Classes

- Amelia Bloomer (May 27, 1818 – December 30, 1894)
  - American Women's Rights and Temperance Advocate
  - 1848: Attended the Seneca Falls Convention (the 1st women's right convention)
  - Edited women's newspaper, The Lily
  - The first woman to own, operate and edit a news vehicle for women.
“Inspire her mind”
STEM Field

- What is STEM?
  - Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
- Why are women underrepresented in STEM fields?
- What can we do to encourage girls to participate in STEM fields
  - Lack of female role models
  - Gender Stereotyping
  - Stereotype threat - Some students perform poorly because they have been led to believe that members of their ethnicity or gender are inherently less able than others.
  - Less family-friendly flexibility in STEM fields
Gender Roles

“When a little boy asserts himself, he’s called a “leader.” Yet when a little girl does the same, she risks being branded “bossy.”” - BanBossy.com

- Confidence Gap: Between elementary and high school, girls’ self-esteem drops 3.5 times more than boys’.

- Girls are twice as likely as boys to worry that leadership roles will make them seem “bossy.”

- Girls are called on less in class and are interrupted more.

DID YOU KNOW?
We need you! Women make up just:

19% of the U.S. Congress  5% of Fortune 1,000 CEOs  17% of corporate boards
Female Role Models
Men, Masculinity, & Gender Roles

- The costs of being gender atypical during adolescence are greater for boys than girls.
- Boys are less emotional and expressive than girls.
- Men are generally more physically aggressive than women.
- Boys are more likely to experiment with delinquency, drugs, alcohol, and unprotected sex (Steinberg).
Men, Masculinity, & Gender Roles

- What causes the facts above to be true?
  - The idea that being “macho” is inherently masculine leads boys to be more likely to experiment with delinquency, drugs, alcohol, and unprotected sex.
  - Men develop a “macho” personality to survive in difficult environments where problem behaviors are prevalent.
  - Boys are socialized from an early age not to adopt feminine traits and are judged deviant if they show signs of femininity.
  - Girls are not judged as very deviant for exhibiting masculine traits and are not told to give up typically masculine interest (athletics) where as boys are pressured from childhood to pursue masculine interest.
Bathrooms & Locker Rooms

I DON'T CARE WHAT YOUR SON “IDENTIFIES AS”

HE DOESN'T BELONG IN THE BATHROOM WITH MY DAUGHTER
Bathrooms & Locker Rooms

Bathrooms & Locker Rooms

- Coy Mathis
- Colorado First-grader
- Experienced discrimination when denied the right to use the girl’s restroom.
- Eventually won her case and the right to use the girl’s restroom comfortably
- Her case was filed under Colorado’s Anti-Discrimination Act
Clubs

- Homestead High School
  - Club: Initiate for Gender Equity Club
    - Description: The IGE is a club focused on raising general awareness as to what the word feminism stands for, targeting any misunderstandings society may hold. The goal is to promote a tolerant community throughout Homestead, free of sexism or unfair pressures relating to stereotypes/gender roles of all people. This group will strive to provide a broader view of the world and the people in it by examining current worldly happenings.

- Club: The Network
  - Description: THE NETWORK is a group of students and teachers working together in a collective effort for positive change in our school, community, and beyond. Our group is designed to empower students in the areas of leadership, integrity, character development, compassion, diversity, and service above self. We believe that “One person can make a difference, and everyone should try.” JFK
Clubs

• Discussion:
  • What clubs does your school have? What do you think you could do to make those clubs better?
  • If you were to start a club at your school, what would it be and why?
Privilege & Oppression
Privilege Walk

http://www.buzzfeed.com/dayshavedew/i/what-is-privilege#.yq3LW9vgXZ
Privilege

What key words or images come to mind when you hear the word “privilege”?

Take a moment to write these ideas in your zine.
Privilege

- A special right, advantage, or immunity granted or available only to a particular group of people

- Advantages people have by virtue of their status or position in society

- “I have come to see white privilege as an invisible package of unearned assets that I can count on cashing in each day…white privilege is an like an invisible weightless knapsack of special provisions, assurances, tools, maps, guides, codebooks, passports, visas, clothes, compass, emergency gear, and blank checks.” –Peggy McIntosh “White Privilege and Male Privilege”
Oppression

What key words or images come to mind when you hear the word “oppression”?

Take a moment to write these ideas in your zine.
Oppression

- Prolonged cruel or unjust treatment or control.

- "The root of the word 'oppression' is the element 'press'...Something pressed is being caught between or among forces and barriers which are so related to each other that jointly they restrain, restrict, or prevent the thing's motion or mobility. Mold. Immobilize. Reduce." –Marilyn Frye

"Oppression"
Intersectionality

“The experience of the oppressed people is that the living of one’s life is confined and shaped by forces and barriers which are not accidental or occasional and hence avoidable, but are systematically related to each other in such a way as to catch one between and among them and restrict or penalize motion in any direction. It is the experience of being caged in: All avenues, in every direction, are blocked or booby trapped.”—Marilyn Frye “Oppression”
Identity: What Does It Mean to Talk About Sex, Gender, Sexuality, Class, & Race?
Zine Activity!

1. What we find erotic and how we take pleasure in our bodies
2. Division of individuals according to genitalia and perception of reproductive function
3. The social organization of different kinds of bodies into different categories of people based on society's construction of social difference
4. Refers to alleged biological and physical characteristics, the most obvious being skin pigmentation
5. Bodily actions such as how we use our voices, wear our clothes, and cross our legs
6. One’s subjective fit into a particular gender category or how one feels internally about one’s gender
7. The division of people based on perceived social and economic status
8. A person's preference for or attraction to people of a given sex
9. A cultural concept centered on the sharing of norms, values, cultural beliefs, and practices

IDENTITY DEFINITION MATCH GAME

Sex
Gender
Gender Expression/Comportment
Gender Identity
Sexuality
 Ethnicity
Race
Sexual Identity
Class

Draw a line from the term to the definition!
Zine Activity – Correct Matches!

IDENTITY DEFINITION MATCH GAME

- What we find erotic and how we take pleasure in our bodies
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Let’s talk about - Sex and Gender

- **Sex**
  - Division of individuals according to genitalia and perception of reproductive function
  - Refers to reproductive capacity or potential – whether an individual body produces one or the other of the two specialized cells (egg or sperm) necessary for our species to reproduce – Biological, but is disputed by some feminists to be a culturally constructed term
    - In a super-duper simplified sense this is what is “Male, Female”
  - Definitions adapted from Susan Stryker’s “Transgender History”
Let’s talk about - Sex and Gender

• **Gender**
  - The social organization of different kinds of bodies into different categories of people – Cultural
  - The cultural assumptions and practices that govern the social construction of men, women and their social relations. Gender is a matter of how men and women are represented and performed
  - In a super-duper simplified sense, what is “woman or man”

• Definitions adapted from Susan Stryker’s “Transgender History” & Barker’s “Cultural Studies”
Let’s talk about - Sex and Gender

The Gender Unicorn

Gender Identity
- Female/Woman/Girl
- Male/Man/Boy
- Other Gender(s)

Gender Expression/Presentation
- Feminine
- Masculine
- Other

Sex Assigned at Birth
- Female
- Male
- Other/Intersex

Sexually Attracted To
- Women
- Men
- Other Gender(s)

Romantically/Emotionally Attracted To
- Women
- Men
- Other Gender(s)

Design by Landyn Pan
to learn more go to: www.transstudent.org/gender
Let's talk about - Sex and Gender

Transgender
the umbrella term, sometimes abbreviated as trans,
describes what these varied identities have in common.
some element of crossing over or challenging traditional gender roles, expressions, or expectations.

You might be intimidated by all these new words. I know I was. So, why all the labels? I know about that Popeye quote, you know, the one that says the difference between the right word and the almost-right word is the difference between lightning and a lightning bug. Fortunately, we don't have to memorize all these terms - there's no quiz! Just remember to approach each new person you meet with a respectful attitude and open heart.

cisgender:
individuals whose identity and expression usually match up with the sex assigned to them at birth.
Let’s talk about - Sex and Gender

What is a social construct anyways?

- A construct that is only real because “we” make it real through agreements.
Let's talk about - Sex and Gender

The story goes something like this:

Every morning when I wake up and look at my closet I ask myself, “How much do I want to be street harassed today?”

This means I usually gravitate away from the skirts and dresses and move begrudgingly toward the more conventionally “masculine” clothing. I consider for a moment how peculiar it feels that I have been made to feel safety and security in masculinity -- this thing that has been such a site of violence and anxiety in my past.

This weekend I did the same. I woke up. I looked in the closet and I saw this new dress I got on sale. But after I put it on I knew that I would have to pay for it, anyways.
Let’s talk about - Sex and Gender

- Gender Pay Gap

- Gendered Language in the Workplace
  - Can you think of examples of gendered language in work titles? Or in general?
Let's talk about - Sex and Gender

- Foreman
- Repairman
- Fisherman
- Meter maid
- Weatherman
- Housewife
- Policeman
- Mailman
- Freshman
- Cleaning Lady
- Male Nurse
- LandLord
- Chairman
- Bachelor's Degree
- Journeyman
- Man Power
- Manhole
- Tomboy
- Man Made
- Men Working
- Lady Luch
- Old Wives’ Tale
- You Guys
- Mankind
- Sportsmanship
- Man and Wife
Let’s talk about – Race and Ethnicity

Race

- Race is a social construct
- Most commonly based on skin color but can also be based on other physical attributes

Ethnicity

- A cultural concept centered on the sharing of norms, values, beliefs, cultural symbols and Practices
Let's talk about – Race and Ethnicity

The concept of racialization refers to ‘those instances where social relations between people have been structured by signification of human biological characteristics in such a way as to define and construct differentiated social collectivities’

-Miles, (1989:75)
Let’s talk about – Race and Ethnicity

How can this identity maker change experience?

• Southwest Airlines Video

• How was this individuals experience changed because of their identity?
Let’s talk about – Sexuality

• What we find erotic/or attractive and how we take pleasure in our bodies
• Sexuality is in a simple sense - who you like
Let’s talk about – Sexuality

GAY

BISEXUAL

LESBIAN

ASEXUAL

PANSEXUAL
Let’s talk about – Intersectionality

https://youtu.be/z-nmxnmt_XU
Possible Activity if we didn’t spend too much time talking about important, really awesome stuff
ACTIVISM!

Changing the world one button, one meal, and one helping hand at a time
• What is activism?

• What is happening in your life that you consider activism?
High School Activism

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YshUDa10JYY&feature=youtu.be
• What is important to you?
• What do you want to change in the world?
Here’s your chance…
go use your voice!