

GLOBAL FEMINISMS: SPEAKING AND ACTING ABOUT WOMEN AND GIRLS*



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It was strange to stand up there on the stage and have people address me as Madam Speaker, BUT IT FELT GOOD TO HAVE OUR VOICES HEARD.

—MALALA YOUSAFZAI

BACKGROUND

While framed differently across cultures, feminism at its core is the belief that women should benefit to the same degree as men from equal access to justice, political power, education, and economic opportunities. Feminist movements are organized initiatives in support of women’s rights and interests, and may be centered on a specific issue or cause.

The events that shape Malala’s life include choices made by communities, nations, individuals, families, international organizations, and global political institutions, all of which are shaped by gender norms. It is important to examine how gendered violence and other acts of discrimination against women have impacted Malala’s story. Global feminists ask questions and conduct research in order to find clues about how to create activist responses to this discrimination.



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ACTIVITY

 **WATCH:**

“MALALA ACCEPTS THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE”

<https://youtu.be/MOqlotJrFVM>

Now write your own speech! After hearing Malala talk about her feminism, think about what you’d like to say to the world about your thoughts on feminism, education, and human rights. Write a short speech and deliver it to your club.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

 **WATCH:**

“CHIMAMANDA NGOZI ADICHIE: WE SHOULD ALL BE FEMINISTS”

https://youtu.be/hg3umXU_qWc

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie is a Nigerian novelist, nonfiction writer, and short story writer who gave a well-known TED Talk about feminism. Adichie’s talk was featured in Beyonce’s hit song, “Flawless.”

1. Before watching this video, how did you or do you define feminism and a feminist?
2. Do you consider yourself a feminist? Why or why not?

*Adapted from resource guide material written by Rachel Riedner

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

WATCH:

HALF THE SKY DOCUMENTARY

Available on iTunes, Netflix, or DVD:

<http://www.halfttheskymovement.org/pages/film>

Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide, is a four-hour series shot in 10 countries: Cambodia, Kenya, India, Sierra Leone, Somaliland, Vietnam, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Liberia, and the United States. Inspired by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn's book, the documentary series introduces women and girls who are living under some of the most difficult circumstances imaginable—and fighting bravely to change them. The film reflects viable and sustainable options for empowerment and offers an actionable blueprint for transformation.

Discuss:

1. Which country story and theme resonated most deeply with you and why?
2. How does poverty and education in America compare to poverty and education in other countries?
3. Do you think people in the designated countries are aware of the issues discussed in the films? If not, what can be done to raise awareness?

WATCH:

"GIRL RISING: PERU CHAPTER"

<http://girlrising.com/sennas-story>

Senna was named for a fictional warrior princess, but she has been fighting real battles all her life: to survive on a bleak and frigid mountaintop, and to get the kind of education that will help her move beyond it. Senna's father has dreams for her, and so insists she go to school. There, she discovers the transformative power of poetry. Her passion and talent seem to ensure she'll have a better future, and be the success her father dreamed she'd be.

Source: *Girl Rising*

Discuss:

1. Poetry transformed Senna's life and helped her strengthen her voice. Your voice is important. What outlet do you use to express yourself?
2. Senna is rising from her ordinary circumstances to do extraordinary things. In what way do you want to make an extraordinary impact on your community?

READ:

"HAVE WE LEARNED ANYTHING FROM THE COLUMBIA RAPE CASE?", THE NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/29/magazine/have-we-learned-anything-from-the-columbia-rape-case.html>

Emma Sulkowicz, a 2015 senior at Columbia University, made headlines all year for carrying her mattress around campus in protest of the administration's handling of her alleged rape. Sulkowicz brought the mattress to her Columbia College graduation on May 19.

Discuss:

1. Can art make a political statement? How can you and your group create art for gender justice?
2. Discuss your rights as a student. Are you aware of what your rights are?

WATCH:

FLIP THE SCRIPT

https://youtu.be/DZ6RESGZAYQ?list=PL2XQi_mM38jih7rNZ967QfTkAxRekf43k

Flip the Script, hosted by Liz Plank, brings you a different story each week that confronts social issues and challenges traditional assumptions people have about the world. The Mic web series combines substance and smarts with fun, wit, and irony.