

# Unit 5 Reflection Assignment and Discussion

## Purpose:

This week we talk about theory - how sociologists explain the "why" of differences in society related to gender and sexuality. In these reflections, we focus on using theory as explanations for difference and inequality.

## Option 1: Explaining the Gender Pay Gap

Why do we have a gender pay gap?

Use Our World in Data: <https://ourworldindata.org/what-drives-the-gender-pay-gap>Links to an external site.

Choose two countries. Answer:

What is the changing gender pay gap in the two countries?

What is driving the change?

How would sociologists explain it? (Any of the theories we saw this week, or any of the theories proposed by OWID)

How could we change it?

Posting charts or graphs might be a really good idea.

## Option 2: A Woman President in Our Lifetime

Imagine that you ran a campaign to elect a woman president. Please create the campaign materials that would support your win -- slogan, banners, position statement, etc.

Your materials should answer:

Who is this woman?

What does she believe in?

What will she change?

How do you convince others?

How would a sociologist explain why your candidate won?

## Option 3: Applying Queer Theory

Queer theory enriches our understanding of sexuality, even when identify as straight and CIS. Why is this the case? Please read 5.6.3 Looking Through the Lens: Queer Theory Application Then answer:

What dimensions of defining sexuality seem most important to you?

What examples can you provide that demonstrate that these definitions are useful?

How does queer theory give more room to see, understand and explain different kinds of sexuality?

## Option 4: Feminist Theories

Which feminist theory do you find most compelling? Please provide an example of inequality or resilience related to gender or sexuality that can be explained by the theoretical perspective you choose.

## Option 5: Popular Fiction

In your popular fiction, does anyone identify as feminist or anti-feminist? What evidence do you see that they are feminist or not? Which theory we've explored this week best describes their stance on gender, sexuality, and power?

## Criteria for Success

This assignment is worth 15 points, including

your initial illustration and post (150-200 words),  
defining and applying at least one sociological term or concept from the course textbook,  
and your response to another student.

Your response could answer what made you think, what made you curious to know more, or what did you resonate with. The response should be 100-150 words and go beyond "Great answer" or "Good Job".

Also, as good scientists, we cite our sources. Please remember to use parenthesis in your text, like (Esbensen 2023:3), AND add the complete citation at the end of your post.

To review the rubric used to grade your discussion posts, click the three dot menu in the upper right corner of the screen.