

Miss Representation Movie Guide

We will spend three days watching the documentary *Miss Representation*. Each day, you will be required to respond to ONE question from the "Questions for Everyone" section and ONE question from the gender-specific categories below. By the end of the film, you are expected to have answered ALL of the "Questions for Everyone" and the questions specific to your gender.

Directions: On a separate sheet of paper, please answer ONE question from the "Questions for Everyone" section and ONE question from the gender-specific categories below using **5-7 COMPLETE sentences EACH**. Please indicate on your paper which questions you are answering by labeling them with the section name and question number. You will hand these in at the end of the hour. No exceptions!

Questions for Everyone

1. Some people believe that the successes of Nancy Pelosi (first and only female Speaker of the House of Representatives), Hillary Clinton (prominent female politician who came close to being the Democratic presidential nominee), and Sarah Palin (vice-presidential nominee in 2008) indicates that sexism is a thing of our past, not our present. Others believe this is not the case. Do you agree? Why or why not?
2. The opening title sequence shows real iconic women throughout history, such as Hattie Caraway and Dr. Condoleezza Rice, and the popular celebrity faces we see on-screen. What contradictions do you see between the real women around you and what you see in the media?
3. Dr. M. Gigi Durham and Lindy DeKoven argue that harmful representations of women persist because the media uses hyper-sexualized images to sell products/ideas/services. Who or what benefits from the misrepresentations of women in the media? Who holds responsibility?

Questions for Males

1. Cory Booker describes men as "emotionally constipated," and Jane Fonda says it's important for young boys not to separate their heart from their head. Do you feel it is important for men to show emotion? What is at stake if they do? How can we encourage a world where it is okay for men and boys to fully express their emotions?
2. Jackson Katz says that sexism is a learned behavior and Paul Haggis talks about ways men may unknowingly encourage sexism in the entertainment industry. Do you believe that sexism is a learned behavior? Do you find yourself repeating sexist behaviors you've learned from the media? How can you empower yourself and your male peers to refuse to learn sexist attitudes from the media?
3. Calvin talked about the pressure he feels to conform to the images of masculinity promoted in the media and by his peers. How is masculinity represented in the media you watch, read, and listen to? How do these images affect the way you view yourself and other men?

Questions for Females

1. How does the objectification of women described as "raunch culture" shape your attitude toward yourself, men, and other women? How does this influence the way women leaders are portrayed in the

media and how does this impact their success or willingness to pursue positions of leadership?

2. Dr. Jean Kilbourne claims that computer-enhanced (Photoshopped) advertisements encourage women to hold themselves to impossible standards. How do you hold yourself to impossible standards promoted by media? How do you hold other women to these standards?
3. Journalists Katie Couric and Jan Yanehiro talk in the film about their role models. Rachel Maddow says there is an expectation for her to be a mentor to other women who enter her field. Have you identified role models for yourself? If so, who are they? Is it important to have women role models and mentors? How can you mentor another woman or girl?