**Missrepresentation Final project: Reflective Essay**

**Family and Gender Studies**

**Have students sign up on the board under the headings that are bolded in the prompts below. Have students in each group receive their prompt and discuss as a group first. Then book the library for a one hour writing session: 500-1000 words, typed.**

1. What does power “look” like in the **media** (television shows, ads, movies, music videos, and videogames) you consume? How do you think these images have affected the way you view yourself? What power do you have as a consumer? How can we change the way media portrays women and girls, and the way in which they see themselves?
2. Women are expected to “look like Miss USA, have sex like Samantha on *Sex in the City*, and think like June Cleaver.” How do you hold yourself to **impossible standards** promoted by the media? How do you hold other women to these standards?
3. In what ways have you been and are you a leader? When in a **leadership position**, have you been treated the same or different than members of another gender? How does the media portray women leaders and how does this impact women’s success or willingness to pursue positions of leadership? What strategies are working to promote more women to leadership positions and make sure they are respected when they arrive?
4. Have you identified any **role models**? If so, who are they? Is it important to have women role models and mentors? How can you mentor another woman or girl?
5. Throughout history, the word “**feminist**” has been given a bad name in order to discredit the women’s movement. What is your relationship to feminism? How has it changed or stayed the same?
6. What is the **objectification of women** and how does it create a “raunch culture” ? Does this shape your attitudes toward yourself, men, women? Touch upon rape culture, slut shaming, etc.
7. In the film, Katz and Haggis talk about sexism being a learned behavior and that men can subconsciously encourage sexism in the entertainment industry. Do you believe **sexism** is a learned behavior? Do you find yourself repeating sexist behaviours you’ve learned from the media? How do you refuse the teachings of sexism? How can you empower yourself and male peers/family to refuse it even more?
8. Males have reported the pressure they feel to conform to images of **masculinity** promoted in the media and by their friends/family. How is masculinity represented in the media you watch, read, or listen to? How do these images affect the way you view men, and if you identify as male, to you as such?

**Want to go further?**

Write an opinion editorial that spotlights your dissatisfaction with the way in which women and/or men are represented in one of the following: movie, television show, music video, video game, or advertisement. Include specific suggestions concerning how to more accurately represent women or men to the creators of the chosen media or entertainment.

Students work in groups to share their Op Eds and each group of five chooses one to represent the group. All five Op Eds are then dispersed to the class and the class votes on the top two to submit to the school newspaper or to a local community newspaper.