

Miss Representation (2011) Discussion Group Questions

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1. How much does the media affect most people's lives? How much does it affect yours?
2. Are women misrepresented in the media? Why does this cycle continue?
3. Does parenting a daughter impact one's view of the world? Is it different than having a son?
4. Why do some people seem to endure more tragedies than others?
5. How much do we each absorb societal views about women's bodies?
6. Do single sex schools help or hurt when it comes to gender and sex issues around teenage girls?
7. Why is our culture driven by "beauty?" Who defines those standards of beauty?
8. Do you believe our brains are truly not mature until 18-24 years old?
9. Is there a double standard for men's and women's bodies?
10. How much could we reduce our personal budgets by cutting out "beauty" expenses?
11. Are beauty competitions problematic for our society?
12. Do most people believe that participating in politics is efficacious?
13. Does the media send the message that our values lie in our bodies? Is this the dominant message on dating sites?
14. Why is there still such a huge imbalance of men and women in politics?
15. Why is the pay gap still 77:100 between women and men?
16. Should domestic abuse be a pre-existing medical condition?
17. Should the United States have mandatory paid parenting leave?
18. Are we all born with something we are meant to do?
19. What are the best ways to implement new ideologies in our schools starting at the grade school level in order to change society's perceptions of the differences between the sexes?
20. At what age did we starting facing bias determined by our sex?
21. Why do women try to hold back other women from positions of power?
22. Are leadership skills inherently based in one sex or the other?
23. Why doesn't Hollywood support strong women as directors, actresses, or characters?
24. Is too much education a liability for a woman?
25. Are things getting better for women? Or are they stagnant? Or getting worse?
26. Does our culture push romance on women or is this a natural preference?
27. Did women portray more well-rounded characters in film in the 1920s-1940s?
28. Does being a man mean being powerful in control? Is that societal or genetically predetermined?
29. Why is the "fighting fuck chick" stereotype perpetuated? Is there a male equivalent?
30. Is 14 too young for girls to be having sex?
31. Do women have to use their sexuality to gain power?
32. Are women less valued by society after menopause? Do women over 40 really need to "go away" in society's eyes?
33. Do beauty standards lower our integrity and spirituality as individuals? As a culture?
34. Should most elective cosmetic surgeries be banned?
35. Are women naturally enemies? Why does the cat fight stereotype exist?
36. Do men hold the power in judging women's bodies? Or do women partake, too?
37. Does anyone win in the traditional model of the sexes?
38. Why do journalists focus on female leaders' fashion and bodies? Why don't they do this with men?
39. Are we a nation of "teenage boys" when it comes to media standards? Or is this another sexist stereotype?

40. Is it ironic that the more power women gain, the more backlash there is against them?
41. Why do we have the stereotype of the angry black woman or the angry lesbian?
42. Are PMS or mood swings legitimate reasons for keeping women out of positions of power? Why is this such a popular idea?
43. Does obesity affect a woman's ability to be powerful? A man's?
44. Does the press use titles like "Mrs." rather than "Senator" to lessen women's status? Does the rest of society? Is "Ms." still used as an insult or is it an acceptable title for a woman?
45. Why are men never asked about taking care of their kids when running for office or seeking a high power job?
46. What perceptions and stereotypes does our society have around custody when it comes to divorce and the sex of the parents?
47. Do women have to perform at higher standards than men to prove themselves?
48. Why are women in power seen so negatively?
49. Why is "bitch" used as an insult against women in the media? Is there a male equivalent used by the media?
50. Was Sarah Palin "pornified and ditsified" by the media during her Vice Presidential campaign? Did Palin put out a hyper-feminine image?
51. Why is there no women's television network (aside from possibly Lifetime)?
52. Does the glass ceiling still exist? Have you had to deal with it as a man, a woman or a gender queer person?
53. Why are women only 20% of the news? What do you think of the term "symbolic annihilation?"
54. Is it true that women will watch stories about men but not vice versa?
55. Is history as an academic topic biased against women?
56. Should women have been sent back into the home after World War II to give jobs to returning veterans?
57. Is capitalism inherently anti-women?
58. Is "liberal" a demonized term? What about "feminist?"
59. Why do people yelling on tv get higher ratings?
60. Why is celebrity gossip seen as leading news now? Is it because it's cheap?
61. Do the media companies really give us what we want?
62. Is the relaxation of advertising rules to blame for the problems in the media? Should sex be used to sell?
63. Are men in the 18-34 age range really the most important viewers? Why is this if women hold 81% of the purchasing power?
64. What happened to the "family hour?" Why is it gone?
65. When were the "good old days" with regards to tv broadcasting?
66. "We have no obligation to make history. We have no obligation to make art. We have no obligation to make a statement. To make money is our only purpose." -Michael Eisner, former CEO of Disney. Discuss.
67. Is our media democratic? Are lawmakers outside of the media regulations? Should lawmakers be required to follow stricter rules with regard to media? Are lawmakers ruled by the media because of their needs during campaigns for broadcast time?
68. Does tv and video game violence really influence behavior?
69. Should we be changing media rules to protect kids with regard to sex, violence, and advertising?
70. Is the rape of young children the fault of violence in the media as argued in *Miss Representation*? Or is it merely more publicly reported now due to media openness?
71. Why are one in eighteen men behind bars or monitored in the US? Is the media responsible for this?

72. Is it possible for media content not to be biased?
73. Do the media's stereotypes of men affect men? Do the stereotypes of men affect women?
74. How do we change perceptions and stereotypes about men and women?
75. Are media stereotypes worse for women or men?
76. Are men taught to be "emotionally constipated?"
77. Will our society ever focus on social responsibility rather than the bottom (financial) line?
78. Is mentoring important for women? Is it important for men?
79. Do we need role models who look like us?
80. How much do dysfunctional relationships with mothers and/or fathers feed subconscious problems of media leaders?
81. How does our view of ourselves impact the world?
82. Do we need media literacy courses in schools?