*Miss Representation* (2011)

<http://therepresentationproject.org/film/miss-representation/>

On a separate sheet of paper (for your notes for the test), answer the following questions. You are, of course, welcome and encouraged to work with someone else.

**Set 1: Beginning to ~31 minutes (stops at “When a woman reaches 39-40”)**

1. How does entertainment and media shape the way we form our identities?
2. According to the media, what is most important for girls? What does this train boys to believe?
3. Are only the men perpetrating these ideas of objectification and ultra-sexualization to women, or are women permitting this to be done to them as well? Give some specific examples to support your answer.
4. What is the relative frequency of representation for women intellectuals in popular media? What is the relative frequency of representation for women in positions of power or leadership (as protagonists, for example)?
5. How does media foster hostility, anger, and animosity amongst women? Why do many women allow this attitude/projection to be prevalent in their lives and shape the way they interact with other women?
6. How does limited portrayal of women limit the ways women believe they can be (and/or what is the importance of having role models)?
7. There is deep irony in the network canceling Margaret Cho’s *All American Girl* (because she was being told she was too fat) and replacing her show with *The Drew Carey Show*. What does this reveal about acceptable body types for television? (Of note, do you remember the television show *Roseanne*? Roseanne, the protagonist, was overweight, but that was acceptable for her show. Do you have any idea why that was acceptable?)
8. How does advertising, which is often devoted to making people feel anxious or inadequate, shape consumer buying habits? Why?
9. What are some effects of girls and women self-objectifying?\*
10. What is political efficacy and how does female self-objectification relate to it?\*
11. What are some other (surprising) countries that have more women in government than the US? How does the US rank in comparative terms with other nations of women in legislature?
12. In nine states and in the district of Columbia, domestic abuse is considered a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, which permits the denial of healthcare treatment for those women.\*
13. Women in films:
    1. How do “chick flicks” act to disempower women?
    2. What is “the fighting fuck toy” and how does she still lack agency?
14. In a patriarchal system, what is the primary value of women?
15. What does the age disparity in female representation on television reflect about the value media places on women?

**Set 2 From ~31 minutes to ~58:57** (stops at Couric “Who is piloting the plane.”)

1. Describe Daphne Zuniga’s experience with Botox. Specifically, why might have the experience made her feel like “less of a woman with integrity”?
2. How is reality television “the contemporary culture’s backlash against women’s rights”?
3. Why does physical and personal scrutiny of well-known, female public figures [politicians, news casters, celebrities] seem acceptable while well-know, male public figures do not suffer this same level of criticism?
4. How does the overt sexualization of female newscasters disempower them as individuals and negatively impact the information they are hired to convey?
5. What kind of media coverage do female politicians tend to receive that male politicians do not? (~minute 41)
6. How is gender bias reflected in language in the media?
7. “Women hold only 3% of clout positions in telecommunications, entertainment, publishing, and advertising.” What does this mean regarding who has primary input for what gender looks like in the media? What are the lasting impacts of this? How can it be changed?\*

**Set 3 From ~58 minutes to the end**

1. Historically, how has the media shaped who we are as a country? Specifically, what was the campaign post- WWII to get women out of the workplace (like airplane factories) and back into the home?
2. Women made some tremendous progress towards quality in the 1960s and 1970s. What happened in the 1980s that stymied that movement?
3. How did media deregulation (beginning in the 1970s and 1980s) by the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) impact or affect changes in the messages and images permitted on the television?
4. Why does television and the media (now more than ever and outside the scope of the film) need special regulation?\*
5. Especially in regard to “fat-shaming, info-taining networks” why is the argument “they are just giving the public what they want” not legitimate? (Jennifer Pozner, ~1:07)
6. As early as the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, government studies showed a link between screen violence and audience aggressive behavior.
   1. What has been done to stop this?
   2. Where does the responsibility lie – in the companies voluntarily monitoring what they show, in the FCC regulating what can be shown, in families by controlling what comes in the home, all three, or elsewhere? Be able to make an argument for what you believe.
7. How is “turning a person into a thing, almost always a first step towards justifying violence against that person? (Jean Kilbourne, EdD ~1:12)
8. Surviving a rape makes a person more likely to suffer from what?
9. Why do we need to and how can we help men in the society to affect lasting social change in terms of what masculinity is?