

## **Contemporary Feminist Debates Spring 2009 Roundtable Discussion**

You and 3 other class members are required to further research and develop a roundtable discussion on a contentious issue related to one of the four in-depth topics of the class: reproductive rights, work, family values or sex wars.

Taking 10-15 minutes, you and your group members will present on multiple sides of your chosen issue. You will also be responsible for posing several thought-provoking questions to the class and then leading us in a 20-minute discussion in which we critically explore your chosen topic and weigh the relative merits of the different perspectives that you have outlined.

In addition to your oral presentation and discussion, each group member is required to create (and distribute to all class members) a 1-page handout that summarizes your particular position. All of your individual summaries should be handed in together and accompanied by an introductory 1-2 page essay in which you identify your group, your chosen topic, briefly summarize the key points of the topic, and list the main sources for your information on that topic.

### **1. 10-15 minute Presentation**

The point of this presentation is to introduce us to the key points of your argument and to give us some background on the issue so that we can, as a class, have a critical disc. I encourage you to be as creative as possible in your presentation of the material to us. In developing this presentation, assume that your audience is

For example, you can...

- Create a video and screen it for us
- Put together a 'zine or brochure with all of the required information
- Read a "formal" speech
- Develop a poster presentation
- Do a rotating circle where you break up the class into 3 groups (one per position) and present more informally to each group?

You should...

- Be creative as possible
- Present the material in a way that grabs our attention and informs us about the key points
- Prepare us for having a thoughtful discussion/debate about the issue

**In order for us to have time to discuss the issue as a class, YOUR PRESENTATION OF THE MATERIAL CANNOT EXCEED 15 MINUTES.**

Presentation Must:

1 Person must introduce your topic and give an overview + describe the overall significance and what is at stake here...

The other 3 people should each present on a unique perspective on the issue.

### REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS (3.10)

- Is pro-choice the dividing line between feminist and anti-feminist? Can you be opposed to abortion and still feminist?
- In-vitro fertilization and reproductive technology? What is the relationship between feminism and the medical establishment?

### WORK (3.10)

- Child care...wages for housewives, “sharing housework” chores
- Equality versus sameness debate: Equal Rights Amendment (good or bad?)

### FAMILY VALUES

- Ethics of care versus something else? Are women innately caregivers? Should we make that a family value? Should we value them as mothers or promote them as more than that?

### SEX WARS

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