

Opportunity for
Women
compared to Men
in the
United States

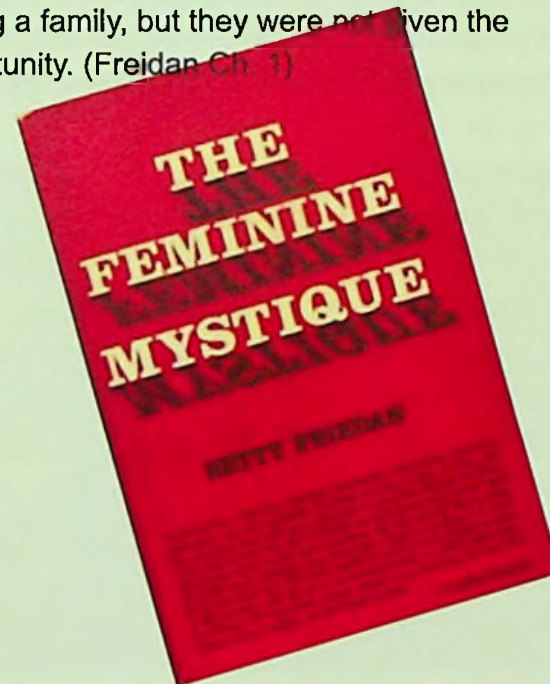
Leah Toto

Introduction

The contemporary issue of opportunity for women in America is an ongoing issue. There is evidence from all the way back in the 18th century of gender inequality and it still exists to this day. Extensive opportunity is available in America, if you are a hard working white male. When it comes to women, we must work above and beyond to reach our goals and to receive opportunities we know we deserve. All though neither gender is superior, we should all have access to the same opportunities regardless of gender or race. While looking at and analyzing quite a few cultural products, we can determine exactly how women are not given some of the same opportunities as men. We can look at men who have received opportunities simply for doing the bare minimum like Andrew Carnegie and the boy from the fictional story of Ragged Dick. Then, compare it to women and their opportunity oppression over the years like Betty Freidan's 'The Feminine Mystique', the podcast 100 years later about women voter suppression, a photograph of a woman during the suffrage movement, and lastly and ad of a woman whose only opportunity is to clean up after her family. After discussing all of these products it can be easy to see just how unequal women have it when it comes to opportunity.

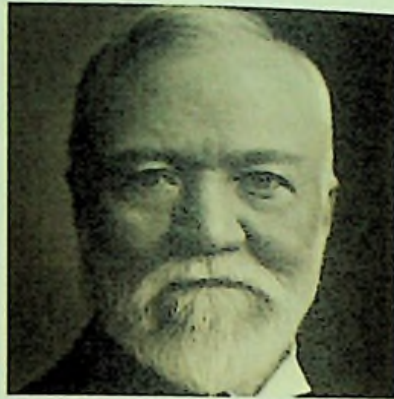
The Feminine Mystique

The Feminine Mystique is chosen to show the gender expectations that were put on women back in the 1960's. I chose this because it perfectly shows how limited the opportunities were for women and how many women felt they weren't reaching their full potential. Women were expected to go to school, find a man, get married, have a few children, raise the children, cook, clean, and that was really it. Some did go off and continue with college, But they would not be accepted by society and were looked at as outcasts. Many of these women just knew there was more to life that raising a family, but they were not given the opportunity. (Freidan Ch. 1)



How I Served My Apprenticeship as a Businessman-

by Andrew Carnegie



Andrew Carnegie's autobiography is relatively a super positive, empowering story. He talks about his life, where he is from, and how he worked his way up in his career by doing the bare minimum to impress the boss; which often led to a higher job offering. All he did was do a little more than what was required of him and this made all the Difference. I chose this cultural product to show just how different opportunity is readily available depending on your gender. Carnegie, a white male, was offered much more opportunity compared to the average woman. (Carnegie)

Podcast 100 Years Later...Women's Suffrage

The Podcast 100 Years Later was chosen because it reflects not only the inequality of women, but the even more severe inequality of black women. They were fighting for the right to vote alongside countless white women, yet they were still being oppressed. They had to fight twice as hard, men and white women, to receive a basic human right of voting. Although they were women too, white women looked down on them and believed They did not deserve the same rights as them. This just shows how the chance for opportunities is much different depending on your gender, AND your race. (McQuilkin, Chakrabarti)



Ragged Dick



Rags to Riches is from a children's novel that tells the story of a poor boy living in New York just trying to make his life better. He stays true to himself and always remains humble, and honest. These self characteristics helped him drastically in his life and opened many doors for opportunities. Again, this shows just how much easier it is for men to receive opportunities in America. (Alger)

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Mary Winsor Photograph

A photograph of a woman named Mary Winsor holding a banner that reads 'To Ask Freedom for Women is Not a Crime, Suffrage Prisoners Should Not be Treated as Criminals', is my next cultural product. Women during the National Womens Party were actually being arrested due to protesting for their right to vote. This woman, Mary, was the founder and president of the Limited Suffrage Society. She was sentenced to 60 days in jail for picketing, then later sentenced to 10 more days. I chose this because it shows the inequality women faced back in the day. They were actually arrested because they picketed peacefully for an opportunity that was not given to them.



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Tick! Tock! Get Ready, Get Set, Go!

I chose the advertisement Tick! Tock! Get Ready, Get Set, GO! as my next cultural product. It is about this new dish soap that cleans much better and faster. the ad is pretty ironic because it relates back to the Feminine Mystique and how women were only thought of as housewives who cook and clean all day. The lady is seen cleaning the dishes and when they are clean the man is there to kiss her hand when she's done. It shows the limited opportunity in a similar way of the Feminine Mystique in that they have no other Role in life other than to cook and clean. (Duke Digital)



Vice President Elect Kamala Harris' Acceptance Speech

Incredibly empowering and motivational; Kamala Harris had her first speech as Vice President elect. As the first female, and black vice president in the United States, it just shows how limited opportunity is limited for woman. We have had 48 vice presidents and not one has been female. She said in her speech, "But while I may be the first woman in the office, I will not be the last. Because every little girl watching tonight sees that this is a country of possibilities." (Harris) This is inspiring because she has now opened a new door for woman and now we have a much larger opportunity of achieving goals in politics as women.



How to get involved with the contemporary issue:



As a woman, I have many ways to get involved and make my voice heard. We need lots of people who feel passionate about opportunity and equality for women to get out there and be an advocate for us. Some ways you can get involved include education yourself on different topics like the pay difference between men and women, get involved in different organizations, and volunteer to women helping women. In order to change the country and give men and women the same equal opportunities, we need to change the way people think and get them motivated to change things.

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(Santa Monica Press)