

Topic Proposal

For my final project, I would like my topic to be based on women's history and women in society today. As a woman myself, I obviously have always cared about women's history to a pretty decent extent. However, this year I have noticed myself really diving deeper into the topic. I believe the reasoning for that is because I am currently taking two classes revolving around this topic— the classes are “Women in US History” and “Women and US Society.” These classes have been super eye-opening for me and have introduced me to a lot of things that I have never thought of or known about before. I already thought I knew a lot about women's history going into this semester, but now I feel like I am a thousand times more knowledgeable than I originally felt I was. I think that doing this project will expand my knowledge even more while also coinciding with my other classes.

Obviously, the topic I chose is a pretty broad one that could go in multiple directions, so I need to narrow my scope a bit. Something I've learned about in my other classes mentioned earlier is the different waves of feminism. I think it would be nice to have a section of my website dedicated to explaining each of the waves (there are about 4). I am interested in learning more about each wave myself, so I think using that as part of my project would be very beneficial not only for my website but also for my own personal knowledge. That is not all that I want my website to be though. I'd also like to have a section dedicated to very influential and prominent women involved in women's history. I want my website to have that section because I think it is very important that we know about the people who contributed greatly to the cause of women's rights, as they are a big part of the reason as to why things are the way they are today.

I would like another portion of my website dedicated to women that I personally look up to today. This is where I would incorporate the interviewing aspect of this project. I think that I would first like to interview my mom, as she is a very influential and strong woman in my life. I think she has a very beautiful story. She grew up in Chicago and basically had to learn how to live independently while also taking care of her brother because her father died when she was only 9 years old, and her mother was a Schizophrenic. Despite her difficult childhood, she made her way to college and ended up becoming a successful chemical engineer for 16 years, and is now working as a math teacher. She is a huge role model in my life, and I would love to highlight her in my website.

I think for the other two people, I would like to interview two of my professors. First, I would like to interview Gabriela Diaz de Sabates, my Women and US Society

professor. She is a Latina woman with a great concern and passion for social activism. She received her Master of Education degree at Harvard University, and her Ph.D. at Kansas State University. I think that she is a very inspiring woman, and a lovely person to have a conversation with. She also has a very inspirational story, but I don't want to mess up on any of the details trying to tell it from memory right now, so I'll have a concise version on my website after interviewing her. My other professor is Constance Buckley. She teaches my Women in US History class. In contrast to my other professor, I don't know much about her story. However, I find her to be a very knowledgeable and engaging person, so I would really like to interview her and learn about how she got into teaching that class.

As far as the design of the website, I have a slight idea of what I would like to do. I think it would be cool to use some of the same techniques used in the unfolding interfaces assignment we had as an assignment last week. The website could be a visual and interactive journey for the user to follow a story. I don't know if that would be the best structure for each section, but I definitely would like to incorporate it in at least one.

I hope to continue expanding my knowledge and understanding of women's history and current feminist topics while working on this project. I am really looking forward to interviewing some inspiring women, doing research, and making this website. It should be really fun!