

Whoever is in power can define anything the way that they want to, and people cannot really argue against it. If people are raised to believe that a particular race or gender is superior to another, until someone tells them differently, they might not even think twice about it. When a group of people being oppressed becomes what is considered the “norm”, as a whole, they have to work together to show that they’ve had enough without resulting to violence.

Throughout history women have been discriminated against and they have been fighting for equal rights through feminism. In America, around the same period, African Americans were also fighting for their rights and freedom. In *The Black Feminist Thought in The Matrix of Domination*, Patricia Hill Collins brings attention to the fact that African American women were having to deal with both forms of oppression at the same time. As women continued to fight for their rights, it seems like *The Beauty Myth* that Naomi Wolf referred to was made out of spite by the men to have a way to still oppress women. “If you want to be respected, you have to be beautiful”, this became another big problem for the African American women as well. To be considered beautiful you had to first be a white woman, and according to Patricia Hill Collins, all this made African American women feel was shame about their dark skin color, and “unusual” hair compared to the white woman’s long and beautiful hair.

As the Matrix of Domination formed and became more defined, the heterosexual white male became what was considered the most “powerful” kind of person. With this in mind, the governments went about things from a heterosexual white male point of view. This kept the voice of the women, African Americans, and people of a different sexual orientation silenced even more. Women have not been properly represented and as the Matrix of Domination continues to exist this will not change. The only way to even attempt to fix this “hierarchy” is for

defined by the ranking system. For that to happen all these groups of people would also have to get along and work together and with their small differences, it is enough to keep them apart.

Those who created the Matrix of Domination, knew what they were doing, and they made it almost impossible for people to completely overthrow it. It was rigged so that the white heterosexual male could never lose. Women and African Americans will constantly find themselves lower on the totem pole until they can find a way to resist being oppressed without oppressing others in return.