(Worksheet 2) **What Does It Mean to Be a Woman Today?**

**The Good News:**

* According to the Pew Research Center (2010), women have surpassed men in management, professional and related occupations.
* 37.7% of women earn more than their husbands (2009).
* In 2009-10, women earned 57.4% of bachelor’s degrees, 62.6% of master’s degrees and 53.3% of doctoral degrees.
* In 2011, more than 190,000 women played college sports, vs. less than 30,000 in 1972.
* Between 1973 and 2011, women in the military rose from 2% to 14% in the enlisted ranks and from 4% to 16% among commissioned officers.
* 101 women (a record number) are serving in the 113th Congress (2013-2014).

**The Bad News:**

* A pay gap still exists. In 2010, women earned 81% of what men earned.
* In a 2012 survey of Fortune 500 companies, women held only 16.6% of board seats, 14.3% of executive offices, ranked only 8.1% as the top earners and served as CEO’s in only 3.8% of the cases.
* Studies show a bias towards men when selecting candidates for managerial positions.
* Stereotypes of men as better leaders persist so that women have to work harder to prove leadership ability.
* Children are taught that femininity is worth less than masculinity, so by 12th grade, girls are less happy than boys even though they were equally happy as little kids.
* Women may develop what Marina Horner, a former Harvard University psychologist calls “the motive to avoid success,” because they believe that “masculine qualities,” (those valued in leadership) conflict with femininity.
* Although women have made tremendous gains, a 2006 survey reports that they have become less happy over time.

**What are some positive qualities that *people* believe are associated with masculinity?**

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**What are some negative qualities that *people* believe are associated with femininity?**

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**Go back to the masculine and feminine qualities and put a star next to any qualities that you think are believed to be undesirable in the opposite sex.**

**What are your own feelings about gender in society?**

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**Have you experienced gender bias or sexual discrimination? How was it dealt with, if at all?**

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**What are some pressures or stress that woman face today?**

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