

Position Paper #2: #Hashtag Feminism

Assignment Description

For this assignment, we will be writing a position paper (see [overview video](#)) about the current about the role of social media in the feminist movement. What are the benefits of using this platform for feminist thinker, theorists, writers, and activists? What does this platform enable them to do? Who does it allow them to reach? Who is left out of these conversations? Who does this platform privilege? What does it mean for the message?

Learning Outcomes

By completing this position paper, you will be making progress to the following course learning outcomes:

Course Learning Outcome (CLO): Analyze current debates, theories, and perspectives about the role of feminists and feminist studies.

CLO: Create a working definition and argument regarding feminism and its role in contemporary society.

Directions

Complete the following in order:

Step 1. Review and refresh.

The [overview video](#) discusses how to write a position paper, why we write them, and how. You should also review the rubric embedded on Blackboard before you begin, so you know how the work will be graded.

Step 2. Research.

Position papers are *research-based* arguments, so you will want to familiarize yourself with that research. Select some of these sources to help you get your footing in this debate:

- Sarah Jones, [There is no such thing as Twitter feminism](#)
- Callum Henderson, [How the feminist movement has changed in the social media age](#)
- Jessica Bennet, [Behold the Power of #Hashtag Feminism](#)
- Ragna Rök Jóns, [Is the 4th Wave of Feminism Digital](#)
- Jennifer C. Bracer, [Brett Kavanaugh and the limits of hashtag feminism](#)

There are dozens of hyperlinks embedded in these sources that can take you to more articles about this debate and can give you some specific celebrity examples that you can use in the body of the paper.

Step 3. Brainstorming!

Having reviewed some of the basic arguments for and against hashtag feminism, you will need to choose a “side” of this debate and identify your reasoning for selecting it.

- If you are “for” feminism’s use of social media, then you’ll want to think about what benefits feminism receives from these platforms. Do they bring visibility to certain issues? Do they help inspire others to activism? Do they use their platform to speak out against a social issue? Does it help to effectively and efficiently organize support/ers?
- If you are “against” feminism’s use of social media, then you’ll want to think about how this platform might detract from the feminist movement/message. Does it disenfranchise members of the community? Does it fail to focus the agenda, platforms, and causes of the movement? Does the reputation / role of social media in society detract from the seriousness of the message? Does it fail to capture the complexities of these arguments?

Answering these questions will help you start the brainstorming process and give you some major points to discuss. (Helpful hint: look at what the opposing side might discuss and draft up some counterarguments while you’re here!)

Step 4. Pick an approach

There are really two approaches you can take for this essay:

- A little about a lot: choose three different feminist hashtags that support your position
- A lot about a little: choose a feminist hashtag that supports your position in three different ways

Once you know your major claims, it's time to look for support. In addition to the links above, you might want to consider some specific examples of hashtags used by feminist and their impact.

- *The Huffington Post* has a [list of 17 hashtags](#) that you can dig further into.
- There are a ton of “for” and “against” arguments about specific hashtags under [Opposing Viewpoints](#).
- There is a website devoted to this issue called, appropriately, [Hashtag Feminism](#).

Step 5. Outline and draft

Don't reinvent the wheel: the [overview video](#) has an outline for you already. You can also download a copy of that outline in Course Resources. Use that outline to complete your draft.

Step 6. Review, revise, edit, and proof!

Remember that you are writing to a “hostile” audience, so focus on tone. You will also want to revise, edit, and proofread at this stage.

Step 7. Format and cite.

Before you hit submit, now is a great time to make sure that your citations are in place and you have formatted the document.

- Formatting: header (name, course, professor, date), double-spaced, twelve-point font, Times New Roman, unique title
- Citation: citation method of your choosing (APA, MLA, etc.); no title page or abstract

Step 8. Submit assignment.

Upload the assignment to Blackboard using this dropbox by Sunday at 11:59pm. [Watch a short video on how to submit an assignment here.](#)

Length

There is no length requirement. The essay should be as long as it needs to be to fulfill the assignment's outcomes. In general, students land between 3-4 pages, which sufficiently covers the material.

Why no requirement? Some writers are very concise, so a length requirement can pressure them into writing “fluff” to meet it. Some writers feel pressured to hit a length requirement and that writing anxiety is unproductive. Finally, length requirements ask writers to focus on the word count rather than the content, which goes against the entire purpose of this assignment.

Assessment

The assignment is worth 100 points and is worth 10% of your overall grade. See the embedded rubric for more details.

Collaboration

You will need to use external resources to complete the basic research for this assignment. Please make sure that you are citing these sources (in the citation method of your choosing) as in-text citations and in a references/bibliography/works cited page. Please review the College's [academic integrity policy](#) for more information. *If you have questions or concerns, ask!*