



---

Fall 2019

FYS 101 Women Writing the World

---

Fall 2019

## Feminism is a Revolution

Taylor Lenz  
*Butler University*

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalcommons.butler.edu/fys\\_ww\\_f2019](https://digitalcommons.butler.edu/fys_ww_f2019)

---

### Recommended Citation

Lenz, Taylor, "Feminism is a Revolution" (2019). *Fall 2019*. 28.  
[https://digitalcommons.butler.edu/fys\\_ww\\_f2019/28](https://digitalcommons.butler.edu/fys_ww_f2019/28)

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the FYS 101 Women Writing the World at Digital Commons @ Butler University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Fall 2019 by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Butler University. For more information, please contact [digitalscholarship@butler.edu](mailto:digitalscholarship@butler.edu).

Taylor Lenz

### Feminism is a Revolution

Titles are not always given with honour. Names can be given with negative significance. Just like every word has a definition, every person has a story of their own that can be decrypted as one pleases. People use their eyes to formulate judgements and their mouths to express these ideas they have sorted in their mind. After being called a feminist, Adichie stated “It was not a compliment. I could tell from his tone – the same tone with which a person would say, ‘You’re a supporter of terrorism’” (8). In *We Should All Be Feminists*, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie emphasizes how the title “feminist” can be used with a villainous connotation, just like the contemporary label “feminazi”. She does this in order to showcase “the weight of gender expectations” (34) in the world and how women are treated if they attempt to break the standards forced upon them.

The topic of gender is a difficult one to bring up in any worldly situation. People are afraid to talk about gender; they may be afraid to challenge the norms that their ancestors and society has placed on them. Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie claims that “the problem with gender is that it prescribes how we *should* be rather than recognizing how we are” (34). Everyone is different; boys and girls are different; boys are different than other boys and girls can be different than other girls. Rather than society focusing on stereotypical gender roles it would be better to focus on individual interests.

The word *feminist* is “limited by stereotypes” (Adichie 3). Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie makes mention of the many times she has been called a feminist: the very first time by her childhood friend and many more times throughout her lifetime, but all of the times having been

stated by men. She was told not to call herself a feminist (Adichie 9). The idea of feminism can be taboo to some of society. The strong and independent women attempting to create an equal society are being shut down by the misogynistic label *feminazi*. Being a “feminazi” is much more than just someone saying, “you think women should always be in charge, you don’t wear make-up, you don’t shave, you’re always angry” (Adichie 11). The classification of a feminazi is one on an extreme scale. Rush Limbaugh, the man responsible for the popularization of the term feminazi, defines the word as “a feminist to whom the important thing in life is ensuring that as many abortions as possible occur” (Proudman). The comparison of a feminist to a Nazi is extreme but it is “a direct assertion of misogyny” (Proudman). Such degrading talk of women can be deflected by men who would give such a demeaning name to women attempting to challenge the gender inequality they face in their everyday lives.

The inequality between the sexes may be questioned to intimidate feminists in their strive to better the livelihood of females. Women have gained some rights over the past few centuries, such as voting and the legalization of abortion, but many men do not seem to see or care to see the inequalities women are still facing today. Adichie brings up a talk she had with her friend Louis, who states, “I don’t see what you mean by things being different and harder for women. Maybe it was in the past, but not now” (14). She makes mention of tipping a man who helped her find a parking spot (15). When she handed him the money, the man turned to face Louis and thanked him (15). At first, Louis was shocked and then she saw the “realization dawn on Louis’s face” (16). The man had thanked Louis because he was a man. A man is societally known to be the one to make more the money in a relationship. Even though they were friends, the kind actions of Adichie were dismissed due to her gender.

The idea of feminism is misunderstood; the term is misconstrued. Feminists are seen as extremists in their pursuit of rights. One woman said that she would not listen to the “feminist talk” (25) of Adichie as “she would absorb ideas that would destroy her marriage” (25). Having the title “wife” is generationally thought to be the best title a woman can achieve. This idea has somewhat changed over the centuries, but society forces this gender defining label onto girls and especially at quite a young age. It is a fact that “gender matters everywhere in the world” (25). The genders are different from each other in both biological and psychological ways. Society tries to use these differences and create even more issues with everyday advertisements.

Women are told almost daily how they should act by magazines and social media. They are told to act in ways that will “attract or please men” (Adichie 24), and as a result, girls grow up thinking that their value is dependent on what men think of them. No matter man or woman, everyone’s opinion is as valid as the next. Though everyone has a right to free speech, some feminists in pursuit of their equality may be told that “the harm inflicted on women as insignificant or fictitious” (Proudman). Some will continue their fight for a future filled with feminism. Feminists are only striving for “a fairer world” (Adichie 25) where men and women can become “truer to themselves” (25). Most feminists are striving for total equality between the genders.

Equality between the sexes is necessary in order to possibly achieve a more successful society. Some women are holding back their opinions due to the fear of misogynistic comments directed towards them. Every human being deserves to express their true self at all times. If labels were to fade away, maybe the issues that come along with inequality might dissolve and flourish into something greater in society.

Works Cited

Adichie, Chimamanda Ngozi. *We Should All Be Feminists*. New York, Anchor Books, 2014.

Proudman, Charlotte. *I Was Labelled a Feminazi – Here Is How Feminists Can Fight the Word*.

*The Guardian*, Guardian News and Media, 1 Oct. 2015, <https://www.theguardian.com/>

commentisfree/2015/oct/01/feminazi-feminists-women-rights- feminism-charlotte-

proudman. Accessed 7 November 2019.