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April 22, 2014

EMAC 6300

Professor Knight

“Is There Room for Flawless Feminism?” Annotated Bibliography

**“We Should All Be Feminists: Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie at TEDxEuston”. TEDx Talks (Producer). YouTube. 12 April 2013.**

Chimamanda ironically opens her talk speaking about a deceased male friend who first called her a feminist. She fully embraced being a feminist even before her friend named her one. She defies the stereotypes of feminism that many believe is centered on female dominance. She explores concepts of women lessening their success to appeal more to men and the double standard of women showing respect to men (and not vice versa). Beyonce uses carefully selected segments of the speech that stand up for sexual awareness, female freedom and equal opportunity. However, Chimamanda does not use profanity in her speech (although Beyonce’s song does). She may not approve of the vulgar lyrics that are paired with her eloquent speech.

**Gray, Emma. “Chimamanda Ngozi Adicj On The TEDx Talk Beyonce Sampled And Why We Should Forget Feminism’s ‘Baggage’” Huffington Post. 6 March 2014.**

**[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/03/06/chimamanda-ngozi-adichie-feminism\\_n\\_4907241.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/03/06/chimamanda-ngozi-adichie-feminism_n_4907241.html)**

The idea of a proposed difference between White and Black feminism is discussed here. Chimamanda acknowledges her perception that Black women may have been excluded from the middle and upper social class ranks. Her focus is geared more towards social feminism, and less of academic socialism. She sees feminism as women who run house holds and act in male roles, but may not necessarily be wealthy. In comparison to Beyonce’s “Flawless” song, one can infer that Beyonce’s superstar status only presents limited facets of feminism. Women everywhere, according to Chimamanda, are constantly having to prove themselves, despite class rankings. It’s also interesting to note that her brother (a male, outside of the immediate feminist realm), pushed her to give her now famous TEDx Talk.

**Sneed, Tierney “Meet the Feminist Writer Beyonce Samples On Her New Album” US News. 16 December 2013. <http://www.usnews.com/news/articles/2013/12/16/meet-the-feminist-writer-beyonc-samples-on-her-new-album>**

This article displays a perfect example of how pop culture can bridge education gaps in some regards (even if that was not the original intent). Beyonce’s inclusion of Chimamanda’s feminist TEDx Talk has now introduced this Nigerian author and feminist to a new generation and realm of people. The song’s original version, “Bow Down” was leaked back in March of last year and did not include Chimamanda’s

TEDx Talk excerpts. Beyonce has already received backlash on the song's explicit lyrics though. Sarah Dean, of *The Huffington Post*, calls the song, "egotistical, derogatory and offensive". The article cleverly does not provide Chimamanda's direct opinion about Beyonce using her speech, although she must have gotten permission from her to use it.

**"The F Word, Contemporary UK Feminism"**

**<http://www.thefword.org.uk/features/category/feminism>. Copyright 2001-2013.**

The F Word is a collaborative blog ran exclusively by women who all refer to themselves as feminists. Although the blog is based in the UK, the contributors are from a wide array of locations including India, Poland and Manchester. Their site focuses more on global current events, news and viewpoints from more of a contemporary perspective, and less of a historic one. For instance, one of the blog posts discusses a very recent case of a woman named Josie Cunningham who is being ridiculed by tabloids and the NHS for getting breast implants. She got the breast implants in hopes that it would further her modeling career aspirations; instead it did not and she has since turned to prostitution. The tone of the article suggests that her being judged for having small breasts has ruined her self-esteem.

**Hooks, Bell *Feminism is for Everybody*. Pgs. 1-125. 2000.**

Bell Hooks gives a very interesting and understandable viewpoint of feminism. One of the most interesting topics she discusses is women and their reproductive rights, something that Chimamanda is also extremely passionate about. Bell Hooks also discuss privilege and race (in which she states that the pioneers of the feminist movement were privileged white women) and states that feminism touches the lives of all races, genders and social classes. She also makes it clear that she stands for radical feminism, and has little respect for reformist feminists. Overall, *Feminism for Everybody* offers a high level viewpoint of feminism and who and what it influences.