

LESSON PLAN

YEAR	8	FEMINISM & POSITIVE MASCULINITY
BLOCK	3	
LESSON	6	

LEARNING INTENTIONS

This lesson follows on from last week's learning about misogyny. It explores the concepts of feminism and positive masculinity, and how these work as an antidote to misogyny. Students will learn about these terms, how they work together, and consider how to promote gender equality as individuals and a school community.

SUCCESS CRITERIA

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

- Understand the connection between feminism and positive masculinity
- Dispel common myths about feminism
- Identify positive role models and healthy behaviour

MATERIALS

- PowerPoint slides
- Video - "48 Things That Women Hear in a Lifetime" - https://youtu.be/9yMFw_vWboE
- Handout A: Scenarios
- Whiteboard/pens

STRUCTURE

1. Ask students to complete the Do it Now task (feminism true/false). They can do this individually or share thoughts with a partner. Following this, introduce the lesson and learning objectives, and remind students about the class agreements.

2. Recap the previous lesson and ask for student understanding of the terms misogyny and toxic masculinity, and how these are harmful to both women and men.

3. Introduce new terms - feminism and positive masculinity. Share definition of feminism and explain that the term comes from a time when gender inequality was the norm - the movement arose in order to address these inequalities and fight for equal treatment for women. Nowadays, we continue to use this term, however modern feminism fights for gender equality, not for supremacy of one gender or the other. That being said, it is important to recognise that gender inequality does still exist.

4. Revisit the true/false quiz. Read each statement and ask for the class to vote whether it is true or false, then reveal the answer (below). Encourage discussion after each statement.

- Feminism means women should have more rights than men - **FALSE**
- Men can be feminists - **TRUE**
- Women are already equal - we don't need feminism anymore - **FALSE**
- Feminists hate men and blame them for everything - **FALSE**
- Feminism helps men and boys too - **TRUE**

5. Play video on slide 14 and discuss afterward.

6. Introduce positive masculinity and explain how it is different to toxic masculinity. Make the point that positive masculinity shares many commonalities with feminism.

7. Explain that you would like the class to think about positive, healthy role models for men - people or fictional characters who embody positive masculinity. Slide 19 shows the example of Aragorn, a popular character from the Lord of the Rings series.

8. Split the class into groups or pairs and ask them to identify people they believe are examples of positive masculinity - these can be celebrities, fictional characters, people they know in real life, etc. Ask them to discuss (in groups of pairs) why this person is a positive example - what character traits and qualities do they possess? How do they treat others? How do they behave?

STRUCTURE

9. Invite groups/pairs to share their examples with the class. On the whiteboard, write down the personality traits and behaviours that are identified. Invite the class to discuss - which traits seem to come up the most often? Which are viewed as the most important? Does the class agree this list is a good representation of positive masculinity? How do these traits compare to their examples in the previous lesson of what a “real man” is? Has anything changed?

10. Split the class again into groups or pairs (or you can do this as a whole class if preferred). On Handout A you will find a list of scenarios, which students should read and then use the questions to prompt discussion.

11. End the class with reflections from the students - what have they learned? Has their idea of a ‘real man’ changed since last week? What can they do as individuals and as a school community to promote gender equality? How can they help a friend who is being drawn to toxic influencers or online content? How can the school promote positive masculinity?