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***Mosaico feminista
Tejiendo conocimiento a través de las
culturas
Feminist Mosaic
Weaving Knowledge Across Cultures***

**Gloria González-López
(Coordinadora)**



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Appendix B

Freewriting exercise

Feminist Theories. Fall 2021, December 6, 2021

Prompt: What is feminism?

Our voices:

Feminism is the emotional reactions you had at the dinner table. The tension you felt at that meeting. The uneasiness you felt watching that show. Feminism is an awakening. It is the radical realization that your subjectivity must be respected, unleashed and empowered. This is when the healing begins.

Feminism listens closely and checks all corners. It doesn't want to leave any stone unturned. It is imaginative and desires to be a life-long student. Feminism never sits back and says, "I am finished. I am satisfied." It knows it is not there yet, and it is okay with sitting in the process.

For me, feminism is the personal and collective habitus of resisting to violence, feeling with reason and doing work oriented towards justice, solidarity and dignity.

Feminism is complicated. It is the ability to see the deep inequalities and flaws in the world around you, and yet still believe in the ability of this world to be more than what it is now. It is to see potential and limitations at once. It is to hold the complexities of your emotions—rage, frustration, curiosity, optimism, openness—for what they are and see the validity of each.

The social organization of the world is oppressive. There is a profound imbalance of power, and we can trace the imbalances along gendered lines. Beyond that, feminists disagree.

Feminism is what grounds me

Inspires me

Challenges me

Teaches me

And most importantly motivates me

Feminism shapes how I view politics and social justice issues as well as my emotions and my interpersonal relationships

It guides how I interact with people and the planet

Feminism means radical acceptance and compassion

Feminism also means advocacy and understanding

Feminism for me is the complex manifesto/embodiment of my experience. It is the relation within my body and mind, my spirit and my experience. It gives names to my everyday life, and it helps me make sense of what I cannot understand before. It presents a different lens, a more colorful one, and I could not be prouder to wear one now.

Feminism is a liberatory practice where people of all genders strive to be freed from prescriptive definitions of being, embodiment, and expression. Individual and collective are not marginalized, care is centered in ways of life, and new worlds are imagined and created.

To me feminism is to feel and think how nos/otras, as gender in the margins can freely exercise our agency and support each other. Focusing on nos/otras at the core avoiding distractions. It is hard work, perhaps contradictory, with no answers, plagued of questions but with a killjoy there that moves us.

To me, it has the potential to destroy the colonial structures that have imprisoned us to patriarchy and heteronormativity. Feminism is collective thoughts and actions from those marginalized within the margins. It's the potential to build something greater collectively.

Feminism is... Evolution. Risk taking. Growth. Being open. Remaining open. Intellectual vulnerability. Always pondering. Remaining teachable, teaching. The oldest student in class. Taking the class all over again. Dismantling myself first so I can imagine dismantling a complex system. Being authentic and opening up all over again, and again. Writing with a heart that is always raw and wide open.

