



# ***Signature in the Schools: The Voices on Blackwell Island***

## **Exercise: Rewriting the Gender Narrative**

**Subject(s):** Social Studies, English and Theatre

**Goals:** Students will be able to:

- Compare and contrast historical, cultural, economic, and political perspectives in world history.
- Take knowledgeable, constructive action, individually and collaboratively, to address school, community, local, state, national, and global issues.
- Describe how personal experience, culture, and current events shape responses to theatre performances.
- Use verbal and nonverbal techniques for presentation.

### **Show Connection:**

People of many genders, including non-binary and gender-fluid people, experience gender discrimination. *The Voices of Blackwell Island* focuses in on institutional abuse of cis women.

### **Materials:**

- Sexism Reflection Questionnaire
- A New Shared TikTok or Instagram Account Dedicated to the Exercise.

### **Description:**

- In *The Voices on Blackwell Island*, we see abuse and neglect rear its ugly head again and again for the female characters. From instances of workplace abuses, to assumptions made regarding one's personal and home life, there are people that make assumptions, abuse and put down women in one way or another.
- Hand out the Sexism Reflection Questionnaire to students to answer and review. Give them 10 minutes to work on these on their own.
- *If you feel up to it as an educator and facilitator, have an honest chat as a group on some of the questions. (If not, these conversations can take place in the smaller groups that are going to form.)*
- Put students into four different groups of equal size. Assign each group one of the following genres: Horror, Action, Drama or Romantic Comedy.
- Each group will also be assigned one of the following topics. Each group must create at least three posts that explore their

group's perspective and observations on the topics provided. Posts can consist of text, videos, posts, stories or similar content, can be narratively focused or more openly didactic.

- » Gender in Schools
- » Gender among Family
- » Gender among Friends
- » Gender in the Workforce

- Give each group a sheet of paper with login information to a shared Tik Tok or Instagram Account. Students will be uploading tik toks / reels / whatever they create here during this exercise. Student groups have 30 minutes to discuss their reflection sheets, tropes of their genres and create the requested content and post it to the platform.
- Return together as a class and have each group present their content and then explain their perspective on it.

**Discussion:**

- Do you think that when a problem or issue presents itself in your life, your gender has a socially prescribed way of dealing with it?
- Does your community have a socially prescribed way of dealing with problems?
- How might your gender / community better tackle these issues and problems as they arise? How might you stop them from even existing in the first place?