

Putting It in Perspective—A Letter to Myself

We've done a series of prewriting questions to encourage you to think about your opinions on various issues that are at the heart of the feminist movement. Just to remind you, the questions were:

1. Do you consider yourself a feminist? Why or why not?
2. How do you define the term *feminist*?
3. Which of the following issues are important to you? Explain why those you noted *are* important to you. (If necessary, limit your discussion to those you feel most strongly about.) If none are important to you, focus on a few and explain why these issues *are not* important to you.
 - Equal opportunity in education
 - Equal opportunity in employment
 - Equal pay
 - A woman's right to control her body
 - Sexual freedom
 - Violence against women (rape, domestic abuse, etc.)
 - Maternity leave
 - Childcare
4. What problems do you imagine encountering in the future in working out your role as a woman or as a man?
5. Has the feminist movement made life in the United States better? Why or why not?

PART I. Writing Assignment

Using the material generated from these questions and class discussion, write a letter to yourself expressing your opinions on some of the above issues clearly. Be sure your letter is very specific in terms of offering reasons for your views. Think about this: what in your experience has led you to believe what you do?

PART II. Publishing Assignment

Prepare two copies of your letter, one which I will grade (and which you can share with the class if you choose to do so) and the other which will be sealed in an envelope and mailed to you six years from now. To do this, you need to:

- a) get two stamps or the money for two stamps.
- b) think of two possible addresses where the letter may reach you in six years.