

Assignment 3: Black Feminist Thought

*1. After reading this passage, what are some of your first thoughts on the work of Hill Collins and her exploration of the limiting roles women of color in this country have been assigned?*

My first thoughts after reading the passage is how complex everything is. For example, on page 242 it states "Tension maybe relieved by subordinating one half of the binary to the other. Thus, whites rule blacks, men dominate women, reason is thought superior to emotion in ascertaining truth, facts supersede opinion in evaluating knowledge, and subject rule objects." This expert I pulled really shows how there is so many factors in oppression. Women of color are more complex as far as factors of oppression. Overall, my first thoughts is how complex Hill Collins work is as well as thorough.

*2. Compare and contrast the "Mammy" and the "Matriarch" roles. Author Hill Collins contends that both roles are limiting. Explain.*

The Mammy is a good black mother in the eyes of white people. The Mammy can be best described as a loving care taker such as a nanny or butler. Basically a domestic servant. The mammy can be love and adored, but they accept their place in a white home. A mammy is limited as far as voicing opinions you do as told. It symbolizes their place in a white home. On the other hand, Matriarch is a bad black mother. A matriarch is a mother who is too strong and unfeminine, who works too much and in result are unwed and blamed for their bad children. Their roles are limited in always being a single parent home and never seen as a loving home. A Matriarch symbolizes their place in a black home.

*3. How is the "welfare mother" image similar to the "Mammy" and "Matriarch"? How is the "Welfare Mother" limited and oppressed?*

The welfare mother shares similarities to the Mammy and Matriarch. For example, just like the matriarch she is labeled a bad mother, but unlike it she is not aggressive. Adding, she is actually not seen as aggressive enough. She is seen as a failed mammy. She is seen as lazy and collects welfare checks. The welfare mother is oppressed she is seen as seen as someone less when compared to a white women who may be on welfare.

*4. How did the role of "Jezebel" work to legitimate widespread sexual assault against Black women?*

The Jezebel is the image of a whore. The Jezebel is the modern hoochie. Her sexual appetite masculine's her. In result, a lot of people may deem these individuals as someone who wants sex all the time.

*5. How are sexuality and fertility seen in each of the 4 roles?*

The mammy is seen as single loving nanny whom does not have children of their own or a life of their own. Adding, the mammy is de sexed an asexual and usually seen as undesirable partner. The matriarch is seen as unloving single mother as well whom has many children she neglects. The welfare mother is seen as single and has too many children. Adding both the welfare mother and the matriarch are seen as sexual beings. Continuing, their sexuality is linked to their fertility. The matriarch is seen as unfeminine and someone whom emasculated their male partner. Whereas, the welfare mother is seen as someone who has low Morales and cannot keep her legs closed. Lastly, the Jezebel is seen someone whom has a high sexual appetite and is as well as seen as low morals.

*6. Explain how history can be connected to the roles and oppression of Black women through the years.*

Black women have been oppressed through history. At first they were slaves and seen as dogs their purpose to reproduce. As equality was on going the only way a black women could be accepted is as a domestic servant whose purpose was to serve and better the lives of a white family. Basically, they needed to be asexual and have no life. However, most women had families of their own and in result were deemed bad mothers and to say it bluntly a hoe.

As equality continued to push and the fight for lunch programs and welfare were given this aided in the negative image. Black women who were on welfare were seen as lazy someone taking from society. As well as, seen as a hoe that kept reproducing. These negative images portrayed of black women are unfortunately still present in music and in culture. The idea that a black woman is an object rather than a good women to have a family with. Whether you agree of oppression we can see a white woman in a same scenario will always be deemed in a better light. However, as more positive teaching is brought on the better the image of black women gets.

*7. How does the field of Black Feminist Thought change the way we think about oppression?*

The field Black feminist has changed the thought about of oppression. It has shined a light a black women stories and celebrates hardship. Adding, it shows a black women has the backbone to a family. Although, not always does it fit the typical family unit the standard family is changing and evolving. The idea of family is more about function rather than having 2 wed parents.

*8. What may we gain by placing oppressed groups at the CENTER of analysis as opposed to earlier eras where oppressed groups were only seen through the eyes of the dominant group?*

What we can gain by placing oppressed groups in the center as opposed to earlier where it was only seen though the dominant eyes is more understanding. When we view a group in our eyes it can almost always be negative. By being open and understanding one another oppression maybe we can find a solution or be aware of it. For example, how are we to fix a problem if we do not know it exists?

*9. When discussing the Matrix of Domination, Hill Collins states, "Each individual has a unique personal biography made up of concrete experiences, values, motivations, and emotions. No two individuals occupy the same social space; thus no two biographies are identical." With this in mind, think about how your own matrix of domination would look like. Which categories give you power and which do not? (i.e. you may have race privilege and not gender privilege) How do these categories impact your life?*

I'm 23 year old Hispanic woman who had a child at a very young age. What gives me power is my education and my job if it was not for school I would be deemed unmotivated. Adding, I work as Finance manager in medical billing for Hospital my position makes me feel powerful. Due to my background and age I feel like I always have something to prove. I'm motivated to prove I'm more than a stereotype. I value hard work, my family, and honesty. What takes my power away is the color of my skin, the fact I'm a woman, my age, and being a young mother. If spoken about in a certain light I come off in negative light. I've been gossiped about as a bad mother due to my motivation and drive in work and school. At the end of the day everyone values different things and imagines life a certain way. I know many whom shun at the idea of the family life style just because they have not experienced it yet. Everyone experiences life differently and sometimes people face things commonly at a younger or an older age, so you do not always have the best peers to understand. I feel like we all should be more open minded and celebrates lives different from our own.

*10. Compare and contrast Black Feminism with what dominant culture generally considers to be Classical Feminist Theory. Do you believe Black Feminism adds to the field? Explain.*

Black feminism battles racism, sexism, and classism. Whereas, classic feminism is demanding equality and going away from the Victorian model. Both classical feminism and black feminism want equality. However, the battle is harder and more complex for black feminists fight. If we magically gained equality for women there would still be the fight that black feminist. I do believe black feminism adds to the field because the model can used for all women of color. Women of color face more than just sexism like classical feminism it is many things intertwined and all need to be considered. However, the down side after the learning about the model is we still have a long fight a head of us for equality.