dismantle PATRIARCHY DISCUSSION GUIDE

tell us a story that matters to you anyway you want

Discussion Guide with Accompanying Slides and Worksheet

Youth worldwide are calling for a change in the systems that are failing us. Violence Against Women & Girls. Climate Catastrophe. Racial Injustice & White Supremacy. Economic Inequality. And more. One of those systems is patriarchy. It's 10,000 years old and counting. Patriarchy is still the dominant way our culture is organized. It's past time we dismantle the injustice at the heart of the system. The question is – HOW?

Note: This discussion guide works for both groups and individuals – our hope is that it will provide an understanding of patriarchy, as you engage in the contest to dismantle it.

Learning Objectives

- Develop personal, cultural, textual, and thematic connections within and across genres through responses to texts and personal experiences.
- Build understanding of social concepts such as patriarchy, gender, and norms.
- Inspire participation in dismantling patriarchy project.

Time Needed

40-60 minutes

Materials

Dismantle Patriarchy Worksheet
Pens
Slideshow system (projector, screen, laptop)

Ideal Group Size

1-35

Get Ready

1. Visit DismantlePatriarchy.org and review materials there.
2. Familiarize yourself with the slideshow.
3. Identify resources and a procedure for any group members who might feel triggered during the session.

New York State's Next Generation Educational Writing Standard 4 for Grades 6-12. See page eight of http://www.nysed.gov/common/nysed/files/programs/curriculum-instruction/nys-next-generation-literacy-standards-grades-6-12.pdf

Activity

Introduction

After welcoming your group and outlining your self-care procedure, give some brief context for the discussion.

Youth worldwide are calling for a change in the systems that are failing us. Violence Against Women & Girls. Climate Catastrophe. Racial Injustice & White Supremacy. Economic Inequality. And more. One of those systems is patriarchy. It's 10,000 years old and counting. Patriarchy is still the dominant way our culture is organized. It's past time we dismantle the injustice at the heart of the system. The question is – HOW?

Common Vocabulary

[Use the slides to focus this conversation and feel free to move quickly through the definitions if your group is already familiar with them.]

First of all, what do we mean by "patriarchy?" Who wants to read this definition aloud?

> **WHAT IS PATRIARCHY?**
>
> Patriarchy is a system of power whereby masculinity and men are marked as inherently more worthy than femininity and women. This puts men on top, giving them more access to power, resources, and even knowledge. It tells women that they deserve less: less money, less freedom, less strength. And it erases people who don't ascribe to traditional gender roles, too often with violence.
>
> Patriarchy results in things like the gender pay gap, rape culture, and even climate change. In the end, patriarchy hurts everyone by forcing people to pick between their full humanity (which includes "feminine" qualities like empathy) and access to a host of privileges.

[Use these questions to delve into the definition, feeling free to improvise, adjust, add, or skip as needed.]

- What do you notice about this definition?
- Does anything in it surprise you?
- Why is it important to include gender nonconforming people in our understanding of patriarchy?
- How does it influence how we interact with one another interpersonally (gender expressions, sexual dynamics, space taking, etc.)?

[Switch slide to the definitions of "gender" and "sex." Take a moment to review either by reading aloud or giving a moment to read to yourself. Then, ask for a show of hands of people who've heard this before.]

> **WHAT IS SEX?**
>
> Sex is a label usually first assigned by a doctor based upon the genes, hormones, and body parts (like genitals) you're born with. It goes on your birth certificate and describes your body as female or male. Some people's sex doesn't fit into a male or female, called intersex. - Teenwire

WHAT IS GENDER?
Gender is how society thinks we should look, think, and act as girls and women and boys and men. Each culture has beliefs and informal rules about how people should act based on their gender. For example, many cultures expect and encourage men to be more aggressive than women. - Teenwire

WHAT IS GENDER IDENTITY?
Gender identity is one's personal sense of their own gender. - The Trevor Project

There's a lot more to being male, female, or any gender than the sex assigned at birth. Your biological or assigned sex does not always tell your complete story. - Planned Parenthood

[Then, use these questions to delve into the definitions, feeling free to improvise, adjust, add, or skip as needed.]

- What is the difference between "sex" and "gender?" Why is it important to understand the difference?
- How do you see these terms pop up at school? In music, television, online?
- What role does our understanding of "sex" and "gender" play in reinforcing or Dismantling Patriarchy?

Norms Are For Breaking
[Handout the Dismantle Patriarchy worksheet and ask students to fill it out.

After five minutes have passed or group is mostly done, reconvene and put up the "Masculine/Men" slide. Ask the group what they wrote down. When the conversation begins to dwindle, add in the slide's examples and compare with what your group came up with. Do the same for the "Feminine/Women" slide.]

MASCULINE / MEN
Stereotypes: Strong, blue, pants, rational, leaders, sports, short hair, muscles, doctors, engineers, CEOs, dominant, stoic

FEMININE / WOMEN
Stereotypes: Nurturing, pink, dresses, emotional, mothers, fashion, long hair, curves, nurses, teachers, secretaries, supportive, and feelings

[Next, switch to the gender stereotypes slide and review the definitions with your group, seeing if you came up with examples in each of the four types.]

GENDER STEREOTYPES:
How do gender stereotypes affect people?
A stereotype is a widely accepted judgment or bias about a person or group — even though it's overly simplified and not always accurate. Stereotypes about gender can cause unequal and unfair treatment because of a person's gender. This is called sexism.

There are four basic kinds of gender stereotypes:

- Personality traits: For example, women are often expected to be accommodating and emotional, while men are usually expected to be self-confident and aggressive.
- Domestic behaviors: For example, some people expect that women will take care of the children, cook, and clean the home, while men take care of finances, work on the car, and do the home repairs.
- Occupations: Some people are quick to assume that teachers and nurses are women, and that pilots, doctors, and engineers are men.
- Physical appearance: For example, women are expected to be thin and graceful, while men are expected to be tall and muscular. Men and women are also expected to dress and groom in ways that are stereotypical to their gender (men wearing pants and short hairstyles, women wearing dresses and make-up.

(Source: Planned Parenthood)

[Move to the next slide ("What happens when you break these expectations?"), Using these questions to lead the discussion, feeling free to improvise, adjust, add, or skip as needed.]

- What happens when people don't follow these stereotypes?
- What names do they get called?
- How are they treated (look for a range of consequences from isolation to violence)?

[Move to the "Patriarchy" slide and use these questions to lead the discussion. If the conversation begins to dwindle, add in the slide's examples and compare with what your group came up with.]

PATRIARCHY
Consequences: The pay gap, all-male Presidents, injustice, inequality, oppression, rape, rape culture, the double standard, colonialism, and racism

[Move to the next slide and use the questions to lead the discussion, feeling free to improvise, adjust, add, or skip as needed.]

So How Can We Fight Gender Stereotypes?
MAYBE YOU HAVE EXPERIENCED SEXISM OR RACIAL DISCRIMINATION OR BOTH INTERSECTIONAL BIAS.

There are many ways to challenge and dismantle the structure of gender confinement and oppression known as patriarchy. Patriarchy is the result of gender stereotypes that place more value on male associations and less on the experiences women and girls and all individuals.

- What are the results of this system that punishes people for breaking gender norms?
- What happens when we take this same framework and move from the individual to the systemic? How does patriarchy influence our (political, economic, social) systems?
- What role does patriarchy play in injustices that we don't code as gendered like global warming or white supremacy?

DISMANTLE PATRIARCHY

[With the last slide up, use these questions to conclude the discussion, feeling free to improvise, adjust, add, or skip as needed.]

- How can we Dismantle Patriarchy?
- Consider your own experiences when thinking about Patriarchy and this contest. For example, some may identify it as racism they've experienced, colonialism under which their community has suffered, or homophobic behaviors they've witnessed in schools or places of worship.
- What works of art (music, theater, essays, blogs, dance, movies, television, poetry, paintings, video, etc.) can help to Dismantle Patriarchy?
- What would a non-patriarchal world look like for traditionally marginalized and excluded folks?
- What would it look like for those who currently benefit from patriarchy?
- How can we fight gender stereotypes through art?
- What change in policies or laws would help?
- What changes in (political, economic, social) leadership would help?
- What can we do, individually or together, to Dismantle Patriarchy?

Thank everyone for participating and direct them to dismantlepatriarchy.org for more information.

SLIDES

1. Cover/welcome image
2. Definition of "Patriarchy"
3. Definitions of "sex," "gender" and "gender identity"
4. Definition of "Patriarchy" again
5. "Masculine/Men" in the middle. On click, these words appear around it: strong, blue, pants, rational, leaders, sports, short hair, muscles, doctors, engineers, CEOs, dominant, stoic
6. "Feminine/Women" in the middle. On click, these words appear around it: nurturing, pink, dresses, emotional, mothers, fashion, long hair, curves, nurses, teachers, secretaries, supportive, and feelings
7. Stereotype definition and types of gender stereotypes
8. Question: What happens when you break these expectations?
9. "Patriarchy" in the middle. When clicked, consequences ("the pay gap," "all-male Presidents," "injustice," "inequality," "oppression," "rape," "rape culture," "the double standard," "colonialism," and "racism") come in.
10. How Can We Fight Gender Stereotypes slide with text
11. Question: How do we Dismantle Patriarchy?

Instructions:

What is associated with these gender norms? Write down everything you can think of. Ask yourself what each gender is supposed to be like (characteristics, interests), do (activities, professions), look like (clothes, adjectives), or how it's represented (colors, symbols).

Masculine/Men

Feminine/Women

Patriarchy is a system of power whereby masculinity and men are marked as inherently more worthy than femininity and women. This puts men on top, giving them more access to power, resources, and even knowledge. It tells women that they deserve less: less money, less freedom, less strength. And it erases people who don't ascribe to traditional gender roles, too often with violence. Patriarchy results in things like the gender pay gap, rape culture, and even climate change. In the end, patriarchy hurts everyone by forcing people to pick between their full humanity (which includes "feminine" qualities like empathy and "masculine" qualities like assertiveness) and access to a host of privileges.

What happens when people do not conform to these stereotypes?

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