

Television

Fact:

Representations of women across all media tend to highlight, physical beauty, female sexuality, emotional vs intellectual interactions, relationships vs independence.

Think about:

How are men/boys depicted in the media.

Discuss:

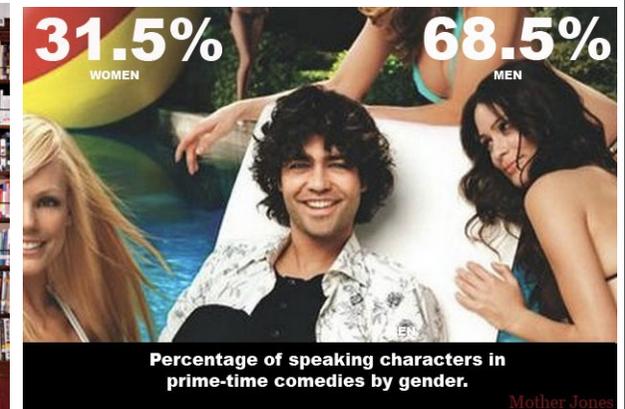
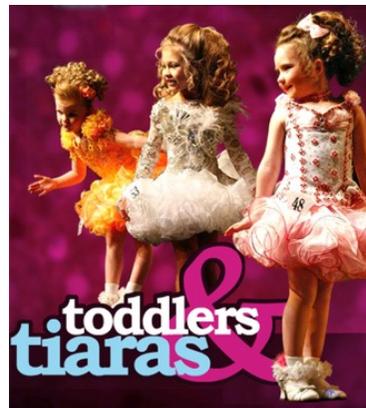
1. Name TV programmes where a strong female is the lead character, & then where a strong male character is the lead?
2. Do people want to see stories where women are at the centre? Discuss
3. *Toddlers and Tiaras* is about looking at and judging little girls, often dressed in sexualised clothing and swimsuits. Is this appropriate? Is there a boy equivalent? What does this teach girls and boys?

Take Action:

Take Action: Watch [How the Media Failed Women in 2013](#). Learn more, go to therepresentationproject.org, seejane.org, www.4everygirl.com

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“Kids need to see entertainment where females are valued as much as males” — Geena Davis



The media can be an instrument of change, it can maintain the status quo and reflect the views of the society or it can, hopefully, awaken people and change minds. I think it depends on who's piloting the plane.

— KATIE COURIC —

If the media is sending girls the message that their value lies in their bodies, this can only leave them feeling disempowered and distract them from making a difference and becoming leaders.

— JENNIFER SIEBEL NEWSOM —

Gender & Representation

Film

Fact:

Women are faring worse at making movies in 2013 than they were in 1998. Of all the top-grossing movies of 2013, women accounted for only 16% of the writers, directors, producers, executive producers, editors, and cinematographers. Women had fewer speaking roles in movies in 2012 than in any year since 2007—only 28.4% of speaking roles in the top 100 films went to women.

Think about:

What film have you seen recently that has passed the Bechdel Test?

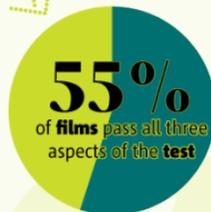
Discuss:

1. What do you think of the Bechdel test? Why are there so few films about women?
2. If men are the storytellers and narrators how are women presented in film and television.
3. Who makes the decisions about which films should be made

Take Action: Watch a movie and see if it passes the test. If it does go to www.bechdeltest.com and add it to the list.

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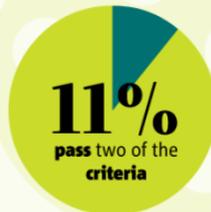
THERE ARE MORE THAN 4,000 MOVIES ON THE BECHDELTEST.COM DATABASE:



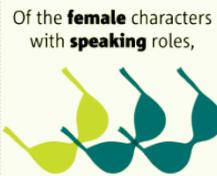
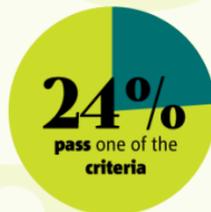
In the **100** most successful films at the **US box office** in **2012**,



In **2009**, the rate was



Of the **female** characters with **speaking** roles,



The Bechdel Test

1. Are there at least two women?
2. Do they talk to each other?
3. About something other than a man?

GOLDEN GLOBES 2014

DO THEY PASS THE BECHDEL TEST?



American Hustle
Dallas Buyers Club
Blue Jasmine
Frozen



Her
12 Years a Slave
The Wolf of Wall Street



Mandella: Long Walk to Freedom
Behind the Candelabra



All is Lost
Gravity

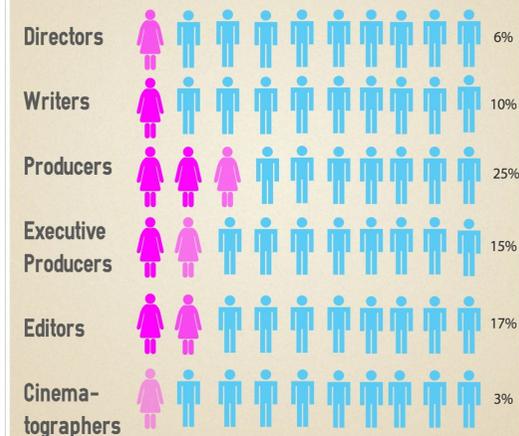
Fail - Unknown rating

The Great Beauty

Sources: Bechdeltest.com, drmathochist.wordpress.com, variety.com

Women Behind the Scenes in Hollywood

These days men still control a large portion of the movie industry. According to the most recent findings by the Center for the Study of Women in Television and Film at San Diego State University, these percentages are even lower for other film professions, such as composers, sound designers and editors, and special effects and visual effects supervisors.



by Benma Solomons
source: <http://womeninbfilm.sdsu.edu>

Journalism

Fact:

Female representation in newsrooms has budged very little since 1999: back then, women made up 36.9% of the newsroom staff– now, it’s 36.3% (Women in Media Report)

Think about:

Do men and women tell different stories?

Discuss:

1. Only 24% of news stories are about women , 76% are about men yet they make up half the worlds population. Does that distort reality? Why?
2. Why is female representation in the media not improving?
3. Does this affect women’s representation in history?
- 4.

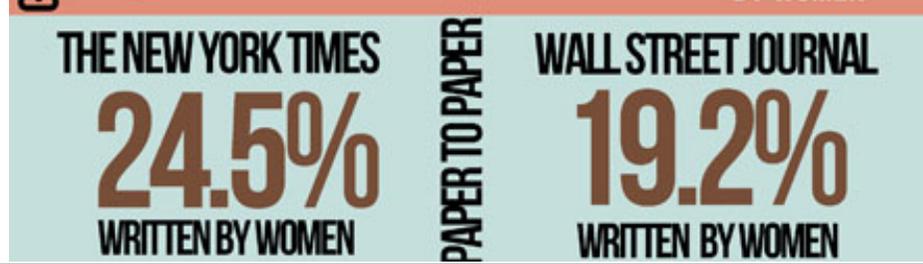
Take Action:

Watch the Ted Talk [Megan Kamerick: Women should represent women in media](#) or [Sexism in News Media in 2012](#). Join [object.org.uk](#), [Women on the Front Page](#) by Nathan Nye



WOMEN ON THE FRONT-PAGE

THIS INFOGRAPHIC PRESENTS A BREAKDOWN OF WRITER GENDER FOR ARTICLES FROM 50 RANDOM FRONT-PAGES FROM 2005-2010 OF THE WALL STREET JOURNAL AND THE NEW YORK TIMES.



Gender & Representation

Government

Fact:

Statistics from the European Commission

shows that with a female participation rate of only 15% following the General Election in 2011, Ireland ranks 24th of the 27 Member States in terms of women's participation in the lower house of the national parliament. This is well below the EU average of 24%.

Think about:

Globally, women make up nearly 50% of the population but only 21% of parliamentarians. Until recently, for example, there were more men called David and Nick in the British government than women! (Oxfam.org.uk)

Discuss:

1. Why are there so few females represented in global politics?
2. How does this effect global decision-making?
3. What actions can be taken to change this situation?

Take Action:

Go to womenforelection.ie enquire about holding an "Inspire Workshop" in your school or community.

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Sex and power

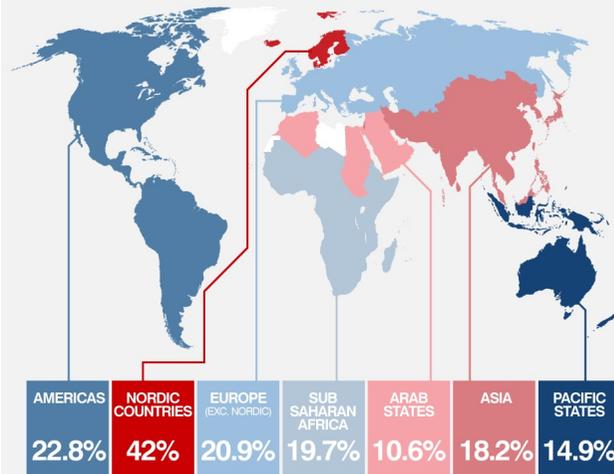
How women are represented in global politics

For the first time in modern-day France, women hold half the posts in Cabinet, honoring a campaign pledge by new president Francois Hollande for parity among men and women in government.

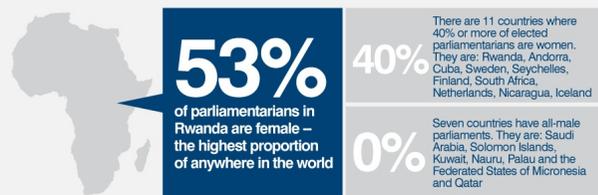
The recent elections also delivered another record: One hundred and fifty five female MPs voted into France's national assembly. Women now account for more than a quarter of the country's parliament. France's female politicians may be making headway, but how is political power divided between the sexes in the rest of the world?



Women parliamentarians in upper and lower houses by region



Most gender neutral and divided parliaments



All data: CIA World Fact Book and International Foundation for Electoral Systems
All images courtesy Getty Images

Presidents and prime ministers

Of 179 serving heads of government, 14 are women. That's 7%. They are:

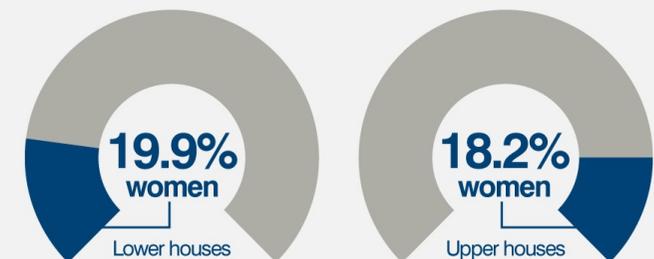


Nine of 152 elected heads of state are women – just under 6%. They are:



Members of parliament

Of 46,056 elected upper and lower house parliamentarians globally, 8,990 are women.



History

Fact:

A UK study by Professor Jenny Kitzinger, analysing over 1500 science based articles in newspapers found, 5 men were quoted for every 1 woman and 5 men for every 1 woman was profiled.

Think about:

Are women more famous because of their looks or their accomplishments. Who was the last female you learned about in class?

Discuss:

1. Name 3 famous women who have made a significant contribution to the world.
2. Why are women's achievements not always acknowledged?
3. Does the lack of female role models in a specific field discourage women from choosing that career path?

Take Action:

Bring this up with your teacher and ask them if the next project can be about women. Investigate more on sheheroes.org, National Geographic, & coolchicksfromhistory.tumblr.com

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Leadership

Fact:

According to Sheryl Sandberg COO of Facebook. Women make up 14-15% of leadership roles in the corporate sector and 20% in the non-profit sector.

Think about:

Do women have equal access to decision-making and leadership roles?

Discuss:

1. What actions should society take to address the representation issue and encourage girls to lead?
2. How is decision making affected when women are not part of the process?
3. Take a poll. Who in your group are interested in becoming leaders?
4. Is this cover story sexist?

Take Action:

Learn more, watch Sheryl Sandberg: [Why we have too few women leaders](#). Join the banbossy.com movement. Start a "Lean In" Circle.

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