

### GROUP DISCUSSION: TOPIC BREAKDOWN

The purpose of this assignment is to look at your topic both as an individual matter and as part of an interconnected system of oppression. Using the chosen articles, consider the following when formulating ideas and questions for the group discussion.

1. **Race:** What role does race play in the articles? Is race the only factor discussed in the article? If not, what other aspects of the Matrix are discussed? Is race a stand-alone issue? If we know race is social construct, why is it so important to our society? How do changes in race affect women of color? How do women of color handle race matters? Is it the same for all women of color?
2. **Gender Roles:** What are gender roles? How are they created? What gender roles are discussed in the articles? If gender is a social construct, why is it so important to our society? Do women of color have the same gender roles? How is gender used to symbolize who belongs in society? Remember the special place of women of color to the idea of belonging both historically and today.
3. **Standards of Beauty:** According to the article(s) what is beauty? What standards of beauty are discussed in the articles? Is beauty a social construct? Are standards in beauty a stand-alone issue or are there other issues that affect what is considered beauty? How do standards in beauty affect women of color? Are the standards of beauty different for women of color?
4. **Class & Capitalism:** What role does class & capitalism play in the articles? Is class the only factor discussed in the article? Is class a stand-alone issue? If we know class is a social construct, why is it so important to our society? How do economic changes affect women of color? Remember the special place of women of color to the economic structure of the nation both historically and today.
5. **Expectations/Stereotypes:** What are expectations for women of color, both discussed in the articles and in general? Who decides what is expected? Are expectations the same for all women of color or do they depend on other factors? If so, what are they? Have expectations changed for women of color? Are expectations oppressive? What does it mean to stereotype? What are the stereotypes for women of color? How are women of color stereotyped (sexually, education, language, economic status etc.) Who is to blame for the perpetuation of stereotypes?
6. **Sexuality- Fetish:** Compare and contrast how women of color are sexualized in the articles. Are women of color sexualized differently from each other or from non-women of color? If so, how? How have ideas of race, gender, heteronormativity, oppression, and patriarchy affected how women of color express their sexuality? What role has violence played in maintaining these oppressions? How have women of color responded to their sexualization?
7. **Sexuality (Queer):** Do the articles discuss or demonstrate the ways in which queer women of color search for identity, acceptance, and understanding as women of color in the United States? If not, how would you assume they do based on the articles? Compare and contrast some of the issues queer women of color face as queer people, women, and women of color, etc: What role does gender, sexuality, religion, patriarchy, feminism, oppression, and heteronormativity play in the acceptance of queer women of color. How do queer women of color balance their sexuality and cultural acceptance?