**Student Activities – Section 1**

1. Pick one essay in Section One and consider the ways the author or authors make their argument. What are they trying to convince the reader to see? What kind of evidence do they use to make their claim? What are they hoping the reader will do if convinced of the argument (i.e., is there a call to action)? Finally, do you find the argument to be made effectively? Why or why not? In a short essay, answer these questions. Consider using direct quotes from the text to help you engage with the subject and the way it is presented.
2. Consider your own subject position. You do not need to share this information with anyone. Think about your position in regards to gender, sexuality, class, race, and physical or mental ability. In what ways do you hold a position of privilege and in what ways do you find yourself in a position of less or no privilege? Discuss ways you might share these ideas with your professor that meet your comfort level in sharing these insights.
3. Pick two readings and fill in a Venn diagram comparing and contrasting the work (consider both the content of the essays and the way the authors make their arguments). Write a paper analyzing the readings from Section 1 of your textbook using your observations as a basis. See if you can apply key terms and concepts from Section 1 of your textbook.
4. On your own or with a group, write down all of the words you associate with the word “feminist” for three minutes. Move quickly and don’t judge your answers; just bring to mind any associations you and your group have with the word. Either share the list with the class or consider the list on your own. Do you notice any patterns? What observations can you make about your list? Why do you think your list looks the way it does? Write a short reflection on your relationship to the word “feminist” based on your observations. How might you define the word? You can do this same exercise with the word “queer.
5. Write a narrative about a time when you aware of your gender. You could think about the first time you were aware of the idea of gender in relation to yourself or you could write about something that happened last week. At the end of your narrative, write a paragraph in which you explain how a reading/the readings from this section help you understand your experience. Often we do not have language for our experiences early in our lives. Did learning any of the terms help give voice to your experience?