

COURSE CONTENT NOTICE FOR PARENTS

SOCIAL STUDIES 9 & 10

LAKES DISTRICT SECONDARY SCHOOL

MAY 2016

Media studies and current events/issues are an important part of our Social Studies class, and help students to understand and critically examine our world. In the near future, our class will be analyzing and discussing gender stereotypes in the media. Our children and teenagers are constantly exposed to the media through the internet, TV advertisements, magazines, etc. It is an important skill for our youth to be able to critically examine the messages that they are being exposed to, and the impact that those messages have on society and on their lives.

Two powerful documentaries that highlight gender stereotypes are:

- *Miss Representation*
- *The Mask You Live In*.

Both films contain some sensitive content, but are earnest portrayals of the issues that our teens are facing in regards to gender stereotyping in the media and society at large. We will be watching both of these films in Social Studies.

Miss Representation urges viewers to open their eyes to what the media is telling us about women. It takes a critical eye to the objectification of

women in the media. It suggests that today's teens may be growing up with a skewed perspective, one that undermines their intelligence and substantive accomplishments. In order to accurately examine how women are

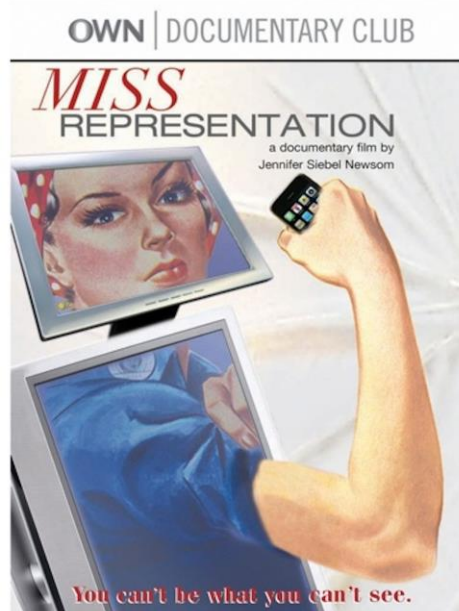
portrayed in the media, the film includes some sexualized situations, strong language, and discussions of bullying and abusive relationships. These images are balanced by interviews with strong, positive female role models, and the message that once we are aware and can critically examine our world, we are empowered to act.



The Mask You Live In is about how boys are directed to grow up to be "men," and what it means to be masculine in today's society. The film features candid, heartfelt stories that boys and men share about their lives. It also reveals how the traditional/stereotypical definition of "manliness" can be damaging both to boys and adult men. *The Mask You Live In* includes frank discussions about the many issues facing young males. There is some strong language, as well as clips of violence, and references to sexual situations.

***Miss Representation* and *The Mask You Live In* are available to view on Netflix. I strongly urge you to watch the films. You can also check out the reviews/ratings from parents, teachers, and kids on www.common sense media.org.**

If you would not like your teen to watch one or either of the films, please contact me **before May 18th**, and I will ensure that they have alternate learning activities.



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