Social Studies Name:

***Miss* Representation & The Mask You Live In**

**Possible Discussion Questions**

***Miss* Representation**

What were some things that resonated with you?

What parts of the film were surprising?

What questions did the film raise for you?

What does the word feminism mean to you?

How much do you think we absorb societal views about women’s bodies?

Why is our culture driven by “beauty?” Who defines those standards of beauty?

Do you think that beauty competitions are problematic for our society?

Is there a double standard for men’s and women’s bodies?

Do you think things are getting better for women? Staying the same? Getting worse?

Should most elective cosmetic surgeries be banned?

Do men hold the power in judging women’s bodies? Or do women partake too?

Why do you think that women in power are seen so negatively?

Is it true that women will watch stories about men, but men will not watch stories about women?

Do you think it is important for us to have role models who look like us, or are similar to us?

Who do you consider to be the strong female role models of today?

Do you believe the media is as powerful as MISS REPRESENTATION makes it out to be in shaping our lives and the society we live in?

**The Mask You Live In**

What were some things that resonated with you?

What parts of the film were surprising?

What questions did the film raise for you?

How does the media portray men?

Why do you think they chose to name the documentary “the mask you live in”?

**Statistics to share (specific to Canada)**

* **The suicide rate for males in Canada is 3x higher than the rate for females.**
* **More boys drop out of highschool than girls.**
* **Almost half of the homeless population in Canada (47.5%) are single men between the ages of 25 and 55. Another 20% of homeless are youth 16-24, and 2/3 of these are boys.**
* **Boys under 17 drink more heavily than any other population group**

Why do you think that the suicide rate is higher for males than females?

Do you think that sports perpetuate the culture of “toxic masculinity”? How could sports also be a solution to the problems that males face?

What pressures are boys/men faced with? How do they differ from those that girls/women face?

How does our view of ourselves impact the world?

Do you think that masculinity is something that needs to be “proved” in our society? Give some examples.

Joe Ehrmann argues that there are three lies that every boy is taught in our society: that the road to successful masculinity is achieved through athletic ability, economic success, and sexual conquest.

* Were you taught to believe this is what makes a successful man?
* What qualities or practices come to mind when you think about expanding what it means to be a man in our culture?

Do you think media stereotypes are worse for men or women?

How do we change perceptions and stereotypes about men and women?

Do you think that the documentary is accurate in its portrayal of this topic? Why/why not?