



Discussion Questions for Session 2: How Much Has Changed?

The following questions can be used to guide or frame your group's discussion, but feel free to add your own.

1. *The Feminine Mystique* is often seen as a catalyst for the second wave feminist movement. Looking at articles like *The Opt Out Revolution* and *Opting In*, what expectations seem different for women today (especially those women who choose not to work)? What dilemmas remain? Does the fact that women feel they have more choices change the psychological dynamic?
2. What do portrayals of men in the role of the lovable, bumbling, perpetual-adolescent (such as Phil in the *Modern Family* clip, although pop culture provides many other examples) mean for our perceptions of men? Do portrayals like this empower or harm men? Do they empower or harm women?
3. Looking at the modern and vintage douche ads, the Enjoli perfume ad, the Mr. Clean ad, and the Electrolux ad, what can we say about the way in which women are portrayed in broader culture? In what ways have these images changed over time and what images persist?
4. In Tony Porter's *A Call to Men*, he describes what he calls "the man box", or the set of constraints our society places on men. How does conventional masculinity hurt men? What do people gain from embodying this type of masculinity? To what extent does our society still value this model of manhood?
5. In the Dockers ad and video (*The Emasculating Truth*), it is argued that masculinity and manhood are under attack. According to this campaign, who is emasculating men? Could there be a real crisis in masculinity that these ads are responding to?
6. In *How to Make Masculinity Stop Hurting* author Sinclair Sexsmith suggests that masculinity can be reinvented as an attribute characterized by positive things, such as commitment to family and friends. What do you think enlightened masculinity looks like? Does it stand a chance?
7. How is fatherhood usually envisioned? What is expected of fathers in today's society? Are these expectations reflected in popular culture?