

2c. Feminism

What is your understanding and practice of feminism, and how is this shown in your artwork?

KFW recognizes **feminism** as a dynamic force for social change that varies across age, ethnicity, economic class, geography, sexuality, and other differences. For this reason, **KFW does not promote a single definition of feminism and encourages grant applicants to describe their own understanding and practice of feminism.** This is your chance to think through your ideas, think about feminism in your own context and in your own life and art.

Below are a few examples of how different applicants have approached the question. Ultimately, this is an opportunity for you to think through and explain *your own* understanding and practice of feminism, and how this influences the activities you are proposing. These examples are inspired by actual applications, but are shortened for ease of reading. Answers to this question vary in length, but are typically 1 -3 paragraphs long.

EXAMPLE 1: To me, feminism is about women's strength. One way women show our strength is by caring for others. Women are the ones who most often take care of their own children, while nurturing others in their communities as well. We also understand the importance of taking care of the planet. If water is poisoned for one child, all of us should care. If air is polluted in one community, all of us should work to make it better. This mural will honor women's contributions to the environmental movement, while also raising awareness of the importance of taking care of the planet.

EXAMPLE 2: Media images of women are unrealistic for everyone and especially harmful to young girls. This video will challenge those images by providing positive representations of women and girls from all backgrounds, of all body types, and with strong opinions on a variety of topics. To me, this project is feminist because it will allow young girls to see themselves through their own eyes and not through the lens of the mainstream media.

EXAMPLE 3: As a woman of color, I prefer the term womanist. Alice Walker defines this as a word for feminists of color, coming from "womanish," as in mothers telling their daughters "you acting womanish" (i.e. grown, serious, willful). She says: "Womanist is to feminist as purple is to lavender." My writing is womanist because it centers the voices of young Black and brown girls and challenges mainstream representations of Black girlhood.

EXAMPLE 5: Our theatre company is creating a play about Rosie the Riveter, which is based on a real woman's life. I see that as an example of feminism, because we are telling a story that many people do not know, even if they have heard of the icon. However, where I come from, feminism is seen as a bad word. Even many people who think Rosie the Riveter is a strong female icon might not want to think about her as a feminist. We might not use "the F word" in our materials or on our website, because our goal is to reach the widest audience we can with this story and message. But to me, this is feminist art, because it is telling the story of a strong woman who did what needed to be done and didn't let anything hold her back.