**The Global Gender Gap**

**INTRODUCTION:**

In every country and culture, women play vital roles in society, but often the only role they are recognized for is their reproductive one. Women around the world have made great progress in improving their lives and the lives of their families, but they still face many ***inequities in political representation, economic well-being, health, and human rights***. These inequities do not only affect individuals but also entire societies, as there is an increasing amount of evidence that improving the status of women is key to improving the health and well-being of families and increasing levels of development around the world.

**TASK:**

You will investigate gender equality around the world and identify ways that gender equality and women’s empowerment relate to key global issues and development. **There are 5 Case Studies, you may pick any 3 to complete!!!!**

**If you would like to open the webquest on google drive - Click** [**The Global Gender Gap**](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-ooP5mMDbEeKI73LAHw9idRJgksX3ErJXpe0RXsIZD0/copy) **then click make a copy!**

**Procedure:**

Case Study 1 – Global Gender Gap Index

Visit the World Economic Forum examine the [Global Gender Gap 2016](http://widgets.weforum.org/gender-gap-2016/) through an interactive map. The following maps represent the various dimensions of the situation of women worldwide. This maps focus on several indices of women’s status, such as economic participation and opportunity, educational attainment, health and survival and political empowerment.

**Examine the map:**

1. *Click on the “Top Countries” tab at the top of the page.* 
   1. Click on one of the countries that surprises you. Identify the most important factor that contributed to its top 10 standing. Where did they score #1
2. *Click on the United States on the map. A screen should pop up in the bottom right of the webpage.*
   1. Explain why there is such a disparity between educational attainment (#1) and political empowerment (#73).
3. *Think about MDC (Most developed countries) vs LDC (Least Developed countries).* 
   1. Explain the correlation between gender equality/inequality and the [Human Development Index](https://countryeconomy.com/hdi). Include economic sectors as part of your discussion.

Case Study 2 - Sustainable Development Goals

Gender equality is a right. Fulfilling this right is the best chance we have in meeting some of the most pressing challenges of our time—from economic crisis and lack of health care, to climate change, violence against women and escalating conflicts.Women are not only more affected by these problems, but also possess ideas and leadership to solve them. The gender discrimination still holding too many women back, holds our world back too. Achieving gender equality and women’s empowerment is integral to each of the 17 goals. Only by ensuring the rights of women and girls across all the goals will we get to justice and inclusion, economies that work for all, and sustaining our shared environment now and for future generations.

**Watch, Listen, and Read**

1. Watch the video: [The Facts about Gender Equality and the Sustainable development goals](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K-oc4GOoWOI)
   1. Identify three areas of gender inequality articulated in the video. Discuss the connection between environmental sustainability and gender inequality.

1. Open the [UN Sustainable Development Goals](http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/). Put your curser of SDG 5. Click Read More. Open the "WHY IT MATTERS" PDF (look for the pink box in the center of the page). Read through the PDF.   
   1. Identify and explain the “why” of the goal..
   2. Explain how gender inequality affects women..
   3. Explain how the Sustainable Development Goals are designed to promote development

Case Study 3 – women’s work

In many less developed countries, girls and women do much of the hard labor of running a household and a subsistence farm. In rural areas where homes lack indoor plumbing and electricity, it is not uncommon for them to spend hours each day gathering water and firewood and carrying these items long distances. Most of this work is unpaid, domestic labor that takes a toll on women’s bodies. With little formal education and large families to tend, women are often not able to be gainfully employed outside of the home. Cultural traditions often dictate what jobs are appropriate for men and women. Where women are able to attain an education and learn job skills, they help their families and communities prosper.

**Watch and Listen:** Nicholas Kristof is a Pulitzer Prize winning columnist who writes for the New York Times. He and his wife, Sheryl WuDunn, have traveled the globe and written about women's hardships and triumphs in less developed countries. Their critically acclaimed book, Half the Sky, tells some of these women’s stories.

Watch Kristof’s short video, ["What are You Carrying?"](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gFS_fszfBqo) in which he learns first-hand how difficult a woman’s burden can be in the eastern Congo.

1. Explain the “Congo Exercise Plan”. Why is it exclusive to women?
2. Why do you think the Congolese women featured in “What are you Carrying?” endure the burden of carrying such heavy loads why the men drink beer?
3. Why did the women throughout the video laugh when Kristof tried to carry items on his head?

**Case Study 4 – Economic Empowerment**

The barriers that keep women from fulfilling their economic potential are complex and numerous. In many parts of the world, women have restricted mobility in the public sphere, and laws, attitudes and social norms discriminate against women’s participation in the economy.

**Read, watch, listen:** Go to the [Women’s Economic Empowerment Care Website](https://www.care.org/our-impact/gender-in-practice/priority-areas/womens-economic-empowerment). Read the short paragraph and answer the questions below.

1. Describe the burden of women. For women that also work, are they spared this additional burden?
2. Identify what women are excluded from and explain how this impacts their ability to be economically productive.

Go to the video [UNCDF and Women’s Economic Empowerment video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0lqkeDlWAHM). Watch the vide and answer the questions below.

1. Explain how empowering women economically helps to reduce poverty.
2. Describe the curse resulting from the fact that women do not have access to financial support.
3. Explain how small loans help women (you may consider the microloans video in your answer as well).
4. At the end of the video, you see this quote: “now that women are confident, they are strong, and they can raise their voices and be heard.” Explain how economic empowerment could lead to political empowerment.

Case Study 5 – Women and Politics

Even though America has yet to elect a woman president, 59 countries have already celebrated this milestone. In this Profiles in Peace video, we explore the impact women have had around the world as presidents, prime ministers, and parliamentarians through interviews with Kosovar Ambassador Vlora Çitaku, Rwandan Ambassador Mathilde Mukantabana, and Irish Ambassador Anne Anderson.

***Watch***  Click on the video [Women and Politics](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=42lczenYoL8). Watch the video and answer the questions below.

1. Explain how the rights of ALL women improve when a woman becomes the leader of a country or a member of Parliament.
2. Discuss what might happen when women are not a part of the political process - like being able to vote or participate in the political process.