

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie London~Ted Talk 12.2012 “We Should All Be Feminists”

“The problem with gender is that it prescribes how we should be rather than recognizing how we are.”

1. What types of evidence does Adichie use as the hook for her speech? Why? Evaluate the impact of her choice.
2. In bullets, outline the structure and content of her speech.
3. List statistics Adichie uses as evidence in her Ted Talk.
4. How is the Nigerian construct of masculinity a “cage”? Evaluate the extent to which that is true in the West as well.
5. How is the Nigerian construct of femininity asking girls to “shrink” themselves? Evaluate the extent to which that is true in the West as well.
6. While analyzing constructs of Nigerian masculinity, Adichie asks “what if whoever had more would pay?” as an ideal, showing charity as a Nigerian cultural foundation. Is the American ideal—everyone should earn their own money and pay their own way—better or worse? #bootstraps
7. What techniques does Adichie use to conclude her speech?
8. Analyze Adichie’s body language as she gives her talk.
9. Summarize Adichie’s thesis about feminism. Evaluate her thesis.

We should all be feminists because...