

# *BAD FEMINIST*

ROXANNE GAY 2014

## Bio

Roxane Gay's writing appears in *Best American Mystery Stories* 2014, *Best American Short Stories* 2012, *Best Sex Writing* 2012, *A Public Space*, *McSweeney's*, *Tin House*, *Oxford American*, *American Short Fiction*, *Virginia Quarterly Review*, and many others. She is a contributing opinion writer for the *New York Times*. She is the author of the books *Ayiti*, *An Untamed State*, the *New York Times* bestselling *Bad Feminist*, the nationally bestselling *Difficult Women* and the *New York Times* bestselling *Hunger*. She is also the author of *World of Wakanda* for Marvel. She has several books forthcoming and is also at work on television and film projects.



# Dr. Roxanne Gay

Born: October 15, 1974 (age 45)

- Gay began her undergraduate studies at Yale University but dropped out in her junior year to pursue a relationship in Arizona.
- She later completed her undergraduate degree at Vermont College of Norwich University and also earned an MA with an emphasis in creative writing from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln.
- In 2010, Gay received a Ph.D. in Rhetoric and Technical Communication from Michigan Technological University;<sup>1</sup>
  - *her dissertation is titled "Subverting the Subject Position: Toward a New Discourse About Students as Writers and Engineering Students as Technical Comm*
- Gay worked at Eastern Illinois University until the end of the 2013–14 academic year, and was an associate professor of creative writing in the MFA program at Purdue University from August 2014 until 2018.
- Gay announced her departure from Purdue in October, 2018, voicing concerns about the fairness of her compensation and noting Purdue had failed to address the issue.
- Gay serves as visiting professor at [Yale University](#).

## *Bad Feminist (2014)*

- As I check your critical reading, discuss:
  - The scope of ideas Gay presents
  - Hooks she use
  - Borrowed texts
  - Diction and style
  - The use of taboo language and/or topics
  - Any quotes that resonated with you



SPACE



# WATCH: 2 American Women Astronauts Venture Out For First All-Female Spacewalk

October 18, 2019 - 7:54 AM ET

SCOTT NEUMAN

BILL CHAPPELL



## First All-Female Spacewalk Canceled Because NASA Doesn't Have Two Suits That Fit



Christina Koch is scheduled to do her first spacewalk on Friday, but not with another female astronaut as had previously been planned. Victor Zelentsov/NASA

By Jacey Fortin and Karen Zraick

March 25, 2019





How Unpredictable Work Hours Turn Families Upside Down



The Immigrants Trump Denounces Have Helped Revive the Cities He Scorns



TIMES INSIDER  
Capturing a Portrait of the Electorate



THE NEW HEALTH CARE  
Five Reasons the Diet Soda Myth Won't Die

SHARE

# *The Top Jobs Where Women Are Outnumbered by Men Named John*

By CLAIRES CAIN MILLER, KEVIN QUEALY and MARGOT SANGER-KATZ APRIL 24, 2018

Fortune 500 chief executives who are women



Fortune 500 chief executives named John



The number of chief executives named John — a group that is overwhelmingly white — is very similar to the number of female executives. There are even more Jameses.

In the corridors of American power, it can be as easy to find a man named John as it is to find a woman.

# Today's Texts for Discussion:

- **Introduction to *Bad Feminist* by Roxanne Gay**
- STEM and Gender Equity: [First Female Space Walk](#) that almost happened in March but [didn't because of the clothes](#)
- *NY Times*: [The top jobs where women are outnumbered by men named John](#)
- **“Many American Men Have a Skewed View of Gender Inequality, TIME Poll Finds”**
- **Any personal experiences you feel comfortable sharing**

# Today's Essential Questions

## Language Questions

- How could each text be read and interpreted differently by different readers?
- How and why does each text represent social group(s) in a particular way?
- Which social groups are marginalized, excluded or silenced within each text?
- When do the authors engage with taboo language or ideas? To what end?
- How has each text borrowed from other texts, and with what effects?

## Culture Questions

- To what extent does this text assert that there equality between genders?
  - How does this text show that equality varies between cultures?
  - How should cultures measure equality?
- What context should inform each text for our current culture?
- What can improve?

## Exit Task: Grab a notecard

*Complete each sentence with insightful brevity:*

1. Adichie says “we should all be feminists” because...
2. Gay says “feminism can be pluralistic” because...
3. You say ... (your takeaway from this week’s discussion)