

Women Talking To Women

Conversation Starters

March 2013



The wisest woman I ever knew told me...

The wisest woman I ever knew told me...

- "Sometimes 'the endless flight of time' needs a still center." Also, "Wear a helmet. Just do it." [MEW 1990s]
- "When you go to a party put your hand over your drink and if you forget, get a new one." [RK 1990s]
- "1) Be nice, be kind, be happy. Short, sweet, and my life's motto. 2) Attitude is everything, so pick a positive one!" [KC, 1950s]
- "Always go with your instincts." [Crys 1980s]
- "My mother told me to choose to be happy, enjoy each day and pursue your dreams." [Janice 1950s]
- "She asked me 'Why are you worried about your son? He has a beautiful heart, he's going to be fine.' (From my Mom, two days before she died suddenly and unexpectedly. I hold her words in my heart - every single day)." [BH 1950s]
- "Every day is a beautiful day." (my Grandma Jean at age 80-something) [Libby 1960s]
- "Don't participate in or tolerate gossip--it harms women. Whenever you find a problem, don't just complain, offer a solution." [Maria 1950s]



The wisest woman I ever knew told me...

- "Still waters run deep. Don't be fooled by the quiet ones." (My mother during my dating years). [GD 1950s]
- "I could do anything." [MJ 1960s]
- "My mother told me to never be financially dependent on a man and to be self-sufficient." [JN 1990s]
- "You can be whatever you want to be." [BobbieK 1940s]
- "That the most beautiful woman is the one who is strong, kind, and bright." [Elisa 1980s]
- "Watch where you're walking" (my Grandmother on her farm in Iowa). [Joleen 1950s]
- "When closing a lid ... turn it backwards until it "drops" and then you will know it is in the right place." [Nancy Vail Donovan 1960s]



The wisest woman I ever knew told me...

- "She was actually my age, and had been a wheel chair her entire life, and the story is actually more involved, and it was on the MAX in Portland, OR. But, she asked if I was an artist, and I thought she said it because she thought I looked like a hippy. But, no, it turned out she could tell because I was at peace with myself, and she found that in most artists. Then she asked, Do people with mess or bother with you, and kind of start with you? And, said yes, I have noticed that. Then she said it is because you get to be at peace with yourself, and can just be yourself, and it bothers some because you have it, and they do not. So, the people it bothers are going to try and throw you off. So, after that conversation, I pay attention to the people who start with me, and I wonder why they do it?" [Julie T. 1970s]



The wisest woman I ever knew told me...

- "The Author Marianne Williamson: 'Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness, that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, and fabulous? Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small doesn't serve the world. There's nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We are all meant to shine, as children do. We are born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It's not just in some of us, it's in everyone. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.'" [KG 1960s]



The wisest woman I ever knew told me...

- "You can do anything you set your mind to. This is also the worst advice I ever received." [KG 1960s]
- "She told me she loved me." [Ili 1940s]
- "Be sure to do what you WANT with your life, I never got to." - My Nana when she was dying. I only wish I had taken her advice more to heart and more seriously." [MK 1960s]
- "That would be my mother. She said, 'Don't marry a handsome man. He'll always come first.' Later in life she told me, 'When your own children are grown and married, never criticize their spouses. Just listen.'" [Mary Anne 1940s]
- "Make sure that you always have your own bank account." [Yolanda 1970s]



The worst advice I ever received from a woman was...

The worst advice I ever received from a woman was...

- "'Change your hairstyle and use more make-up.' That came courtesy of my ex-mother-in-law." [Mary Anne 1940s]
- "My mother: 'It's your bedtime.' I should have been allowed to read and write all night, if I wanted." [Rae 1940s]
- "Can't you just forget/let it go and move on? You can do anything you set your mind to. You may think your teeth are cute now but just wait until you are in your forties." [KG 1960s]
- "'You will not be successful in high school. You have no future.' i.e. Give up." [MEW 1990s]
- "Why are you going to take that test, you're going to fail anyway." [RK 1990s]
- "Marry a rich man the first time, then marry a man for love the next time." [KC 1950s]



The worst advice I ever received from a woman was...

- "You will be so sorry if you get divorced." [Janice 1950s]
- "In my family at that time further education was not encouraged beyond college and if you weren't considered "college material" forget it." [Anonymous, 1930s]
- "Never rely on anyone, ever." [Libby 1960s]
- "From my parents when I was a high school senior: Girls don't need to go to college, you'll never use it. (But they were proud when I became an attorney and Judge)." [Maria 1950s]
- "You can't have a career and be a good mother. Children need a mother at home." [GD 1950s]
- "Leave the public bathroom looking cleaner than it was when you came in." [MJ 1960s]
- "My grandmother told me that I shouldn't pursue a career in medicine because it's too stressful for a woman." [JN 1990s]



The worst advice I ever received from a woman was...

- "Just keep your mouth shut and work hard and you'll be promoted." [BobbieK 1950s]
- "You need a husband in order to make your life complete as a real woman." [Elisa 1980s]
- "You will be completely satisfied once you have a child." [Ily 1940s]
- "To base any decision on what I thought a man would like." [Elizabeth 1970s]
- "You should get acrylic nails." [Joleen 1950s]
- "What she doesn't know won't hurt her." [Crys 1980s]
- "They don't need to know." [Nancy Vail Donovan 1960s]
- "A woman should follow her man's lead when it comes to religion." [Yolanda 1970s]



My favorite female writer is...

My favorite female writer is...

- "Pearl S. Buck" [Helen 1920s]
- "Chelsea Handler." [Julie T 1970s, RK 1990s]
- "I'm reading *Lean In* by Sheryl Sandberg right now and every line hits it right on the money for me. She tells women to take risks. I agree. She's taking a risk by telling it like it is. I say "hallelujah" to that and hope that this is the start of a new era of brave, necessary and life-altering truth-telling." [Rae 1940s]
- "Sheryl Sandberg." [Anonymous 1930s]
- "Marianne Williamson." [KG 1960s]
- "Alisa Slaughter." [MEW 1990s]
- "Lucy Maude Montgomery." [KC 1950s]
- "Erma Bombeck (wish I had a more cerebral answer)" [BH 1950s]
- "Laura Esquivel." [Maria 1950s]
- "Louise Erdrich" [MJ 1960s]
- "Alicia Keys (poet and song writer) [Crys 1980s]
- "Isabel Allende." [Elisa 1980s]
- "Margaret Mitchell, Emily and Charlotte Bronte." [Joleen 1950s]
- "Fannie Flagg." [MK 1960s]
- "Ann Patchett. A close second is Jhumpa Lahiri." [Mary Anne 1940s]
- "Toni Morrison." [Patty F 1950s]
- "Most recently: Muriel Barbery" [Ili 1940s]
- "Lalita Tademy." [Yolanda 1970s]



My favorite female character in a book or movie is...

Date

My favorite female character in a book or movie is...

- "Mattie Ross (character in 2010 version of *True Grit*) - [Julie T 1970s]
- "Nancy Drew was intrepid, curious and defiant. So was Lucille Ball on *I Love Lucy*. Formative role models..." [Rae 1940s]
- "The character played by Jennifer Lawrence in *Silver Lining Playbook*. Her rawness, toughness and flaws all worked together with her determination." [KG 1960s]
- "Ofelia from the movie *Pan's Labyrinth/El labertino del fauno* and Eriko from *Kitchen* (Banana Yoshimoto). [MEW 1990s]
- "Amy Poehler's characters in *Baby Mama* and *Parks & Rec.*" [RK 1990s]



My favorite female character in a book or movie is...

- "First place: Anne Shirley of *Anne of Green Gables*. Favorite quote: "Isn't nice to think that tomorrow is a new day with no mistakes in it yet?" I've repeated that to my daughter, as well as many friends, more times than I can count. Runner up: Pollyanna. Her Glad Game shows a wonderful attitude that we should all strive to have. "The game consists of finding a silver lining in the darkest clouds. Something to be glad about." Favorite quote: "If God took the trouble to tell us 800 times to be glad and rejoice, he must want us to do it." [KC 1950s]
- "Hilary Swank in *Million Dollar Baby*" [Crys 1980s]
- "Lady Chatterly." [Janice 1950s]
- "Katie Scarlett O'Hara." [BH 1950s, Maria 1950s who adds "that's one resilient woman!"]
- "Meryl Streep's character in *The Devil Wears Prada*." [GD 1950s]
- "Elizabeth Bennet in *Pride and Prejudice*." [MJ 1950s, Bobbie K 1950s]



My favorite female character in a book or movie is...

- "Meryl Streep's characters in all her movies. She plays so many interesting female characters that she embodies them to me." [Patty F. 1950s]
- "Eva in the book *Eva Luna*. She goes through the phase of being orphaned and becomes an influence to all levels of society." [Elisa 1980s]
- "Nancy Drew." [Joleen 1950s]
- "Eleven-year-old Flavia de Luce, heroine of the *Flavia de Luce* mystery novels by Alan Bradley. The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie is the first in a series of five novels." [Mary Anne 1940s]
- "Mary Frances in *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*." [Libby 1960s]
- "Madame Bovary and also the character played by Maggie Smith in the play *Love Among the Lentils*." [Ily 1940s]
- "May from *One Thousand White Women*." [Yolanda 1970s]





The most important woman on the world scene today is...

The most important woman on the world scene today is...

- "Hilary Clinton" [Mary Anne 1904s, Rae 1940s, KG 1960s, Janice 1950s, Patty F. 1950s, Bobbie K. 1950s, Joleen 1950s, Elizabeth 1970s]
- "Malala Yousefzai." [Mary Anne, 1940s, BH 1950s, Ily 1940s]
- "Gloria Steinem." [Rae 1940s]
- "Oprah." [KG 1960s]
- "Aung Sun Suu Kyi." [MEW 1990s]
- "I love Elena Kagan and think she will have a significant impact on the social and cultural future of our country." [Libby 1960s]
- "Michelle Obama." [Yolanda 1970s]

The most important woman on the world scene today is...

- "Kim Kardashian." [RK 1990s]
- "There is not ONE single woman. And there are not enough important women on the world scene." [GD 1950s]
- "Arguably Christine Legarde or Angela Merkel (after Hillary Clinton)." [Bobbie K. 1950s]
- "Elizabeth Warren (US) and Maryam Durani (international)." [MK 1960s]
- "Marissa Mayer of Yahoo." [Julie T 1970s]
- "All of us have a significant purpose." [Crys 1980s]





The important events that changed opportunities for women are...

The important events that changed opportunities for women are...

- "The right to vote, World War II (women were able to enter the workplace in large numbers), the birth control pill, the Women's Movement (although why they chose abortion over workplace vs family to focus their energy I'll never understand) technology that makes the Internet accessible to poor communities worldwide thus increasing exposure to education, new ideas, financing of micro-businesses internationally, more attention to the control/eradication of the big communicable diseases (malaria, HIV, among others), and access to clean water. Oh, also increased financial aid for higher education." [Mary Anne 1940s]
- "When Billie Jean King beat Bobbie Riggs. More recently, Victoria Jealouse who helped make sure the prizes won by women in the XGames were the same as for men." [Julie T 1970s]
- "Religion. The Bible came up with Adam and Eve and that certainly did women in. The Jews do it with the unclean days. The Muslims -- well, right now in Egypt women are being told by the Muslim Brotherhood that it's 30 to 40 percent their fault if their husbands rape them and it is not illegal." [Rae 1940s]
- "Voting. Access to birth control." [KG 1960s]



The important events that changed opportunities for women are...

- "Voting. Access to birth control." [KG 1960s]
- "Patriarchy, the invention of birth control, all suffrage movements, civil rights, first and second waves of feminism, the invention of computers, and Oprah." [MEW 1990s]
- "Hillary Clinton running for president." [RK 1990s]
- "Birth Control." [Janice 1950s]
- "For better: birth control. For worse: Sarah Palin. Millions of intelligent and hard-working women in the US and John McCain chooses one who doesn't read and can't cite a single amendment to the US Constitution. Made a global laughingstock of US women." [BH 1950s]
- "Access to education: my law school class was 51% women - first time ever." [Libby 1960s]
- "Gloria Steinem and the Women's Liberation movement of the 60s and 70s." [GD 1950s]
- "Right to vote and birth control." [Joleen 1950s]
- "Voting." [Crys 1980s]
- "Passage of Roe v Wade" [Ily 1940s]
- "19th Amendment, Brown v Board of Education, Loving v Virginia, and Roe v Wade." [Yolanda 1970s]



The most important challenge facing US women today is...

The most important challenge facing US women today is...

- "Balancing work and home life due to the change in the economy." [JN 1990s]
- "I still believe that we are far from figuring out how to raise emotionally healthy families while excelling in the workplace. This is also, of course, an issue for men. This is very hard to do in a capitalist society. Poverty is also a huge issue." [Mary Anne 1940s]
- "It is still a 'Boy's Club,' and it is like people have a hard time giving women credit. I feel some people have an idea of what 'smart' looks like and if the person in front of them doesn't match the image then they can't make sense of it. [Julie 1970s]
- "To be taken seriously." [Rae 1940s]
- "Getting young women more involved in the sciences. Equal pay for equal work. The myths of 'having it all' and keeping it together." [KG 1960s]



The most important challenge facing US women today is...

- "Being happy with themselves." [MEW 1990s]
- "Self fulfillment." [RK 1990s]
- "Parenting." [Crys 1980s]
- "Women are still far from being equal in the US and there seems to be so much passivity about this issue." [Janice 1950s]
- "Birth control." [Patty F. 1950s]
- "Equal Pay." [Libby 1960s]
- "Life and home balance." [GD 1950s]
- "Finding their voices." [MJ 1960s]
- "Compensation inequality." [BobbieK 1940s]



The most important challenge facing US women today is...

- "Overcoming the thought that women are meek and unable to be on the same level as men." [Elisa 1980s]
- "Ignorance and access to education." [Ily 1940s]
- "The glass ceiling." [Joleen 1950s]
- "Health." [MK 1960s]
- "Political participation - our laws and fiscal policies are developed by men with very little input from women." [BH 1950s]
- "Keeping the right to choose and equal pay." [Yolanda 1970s]





The most important challenge facing women
anywhere is...

The most important challenge facing women anywhere is...

- "Being marginalized. Is it just easier to pay us less or is it more accepted?" [Julie T. 1970s]
- "Poverty / access to education / physical safety and health." [Rae 1940s]
- "Nurturing our young women to develop in what is still a male dominated society. I fear we are sliding backwards. Many facets of our culture feed this, e.g. the depiction of women in popular music." [KG 1960s]
- "Standing up for women." [MEW 1990s]
- "Equal rights." [RK 1990s]
- "Acceptance as equals." [KC 1950s]
- "Women's rights to fully participate and receive the benefits of any society." [Janice 1950s]

The most important challenge facing women anywhere is...

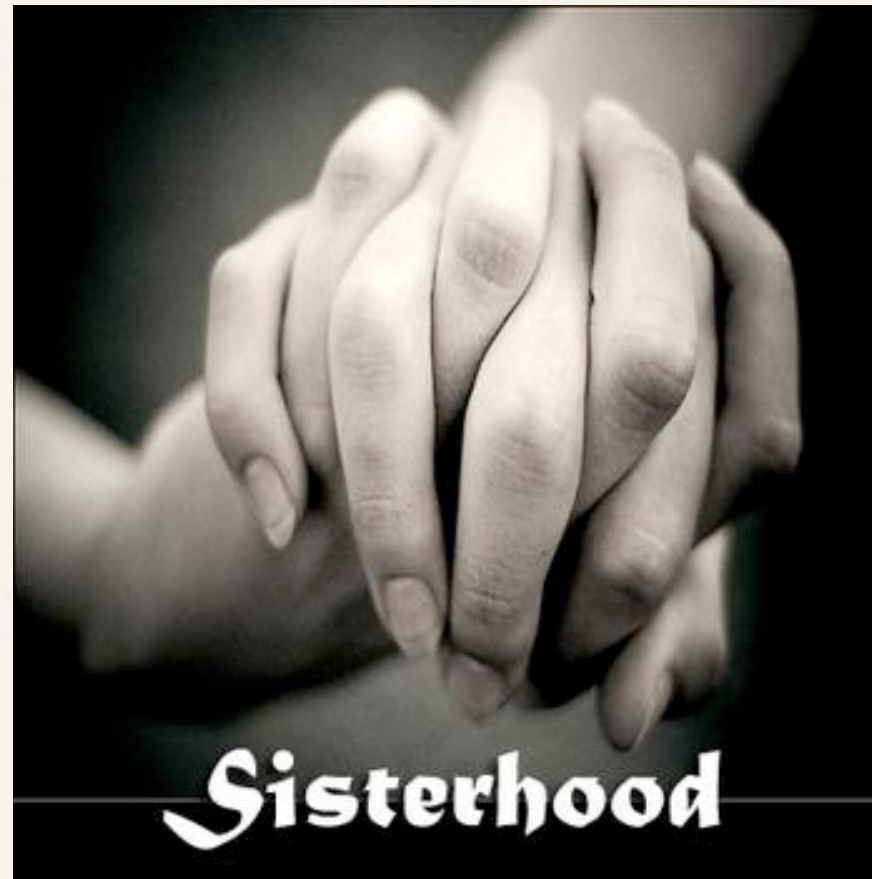
- "Economic empowerment and the subsequent independence this brings." [BH 1950s]
- "Equal pay." [Patty F. 1950s]
- "Health care." [Libby 1960s]
- "Discrimination and "bullying/ power plays by men." [GD 1950s]
- "Educating their children." [MJ 1960s]
- "Parenting...mothers have the crucial challenge of raising children in an ever changing world...respect your values and lead by example." [Crys 1980s]
- "Getting more women in leadership positions in the fields of math and science." [JN 1990s]



The most important challenge facing women anywhere is...

- "Sexism and violence against women." [BobbieK 1940s]
- "Equality. In many places today, women are seen as objects and not as intelligent as males." [Elisa 1980s]
- "Poverty and oppression." [Joleen 1950s]
- "Health." [MK 1960s]
- "Sexual slavery of women and children, violence against women, and the education of girls in developing countries." [Elizabeth 1970s]
- "Lack of equal access to education, jobs, the legal systems, family planning services." [Mary Anne 1940s]
- "Education." [Ily 1940s]
- "Having control over your own body and being able to support herself and her children." [Yolanda 1970s]





I wish a woman I respected had told me or encouraged me to...

I wish a woman I respected had told me or encouraged me to...

- "I wish she had said you are going to have a harder time than your male friends and that is just how it is. You can't take it personally even though it is. It happens to all of us." [Julie T 1970s]
- "Stop worrying about what my family wanted me to do and go for what I wanted to do." [MK 1960s]
- "I can't say it would have made any difference if a woman encouraged me because I came up in a male-dominated world. Women need to actively mentor other women continuously. We need to open doors for each other the way men do. Every time we move forward an inch, we need to reach back and bring a woman along with us." [Rae 1940s]
- "Attend college sooner." [Crys 1980s]
- "Valuing myself, speak my truths instead of self-imploding and destructing." [KG 1960s]



I wish a woman I respected had told me or encouraged me to...

- "Speak loudly and without apologies." [MEW 1990s]
- "Put down the hot pocket." [RK 1990s]
- "Trust in myself and believe that I could do whatever my imagination could dream up. I never got that information." [KC 1950s]
- "Get a better education." [Janice 1950s]
- "Looking back I would wish that I had been encouraged to think bigger." [Anonymous 1930s]
- "Have more children." [BH 1950s]
- "Be myself." [Ily 1940s]



I wish a woman I respected had told me or encouraged me to...

- "I wouldn't change a thing. Looking back at age 47, I was fortunate to always have very supportive women: mom, step-mom, aunts, sisters." [Libby 1960s]
- "Be confident in being a woman and don't always imitate men." [GD 1950s]
- "Stay in Europe." [MJ 1960s]
- "Reminded me that nothing in this world worth having comes easy. (There are no shortcuts in life)." [JN 1990s]
- "Be strong but always keep an open mind, things are not always as they seem." [Elisa 1980s]



I wish a woman I respected had told me or encouraged me to...

- "Stay in college." [Joleen 1950s]
- "Tell." [Nancy Vail Donovan 1960s]
- "Have the confidence to trust my instincts. That advice came from a male mentor. But it would have meant more coming from a woman because women, I think, have to work harder at developing confidence than men do." [Elizabeth 1970s]
- "Continue to care for others but to be sure that I also took the time to care for myself and I do NOT mean going to the gym every day!" [Mary Anne 1940s]
- "Save more and allow others to help." [Yolanda 1970s]





Here's my advice to a teenage woman if she asked me how to prepare for her future...

Here's my advice to a teenage woman if she asked me how to prepare for her future...

- "Plan on being twice of everything that a male is, and just set it up that way, so going in on anything you are already there. If it ends up that things are fair then you are just twice as good. Cultivate a diverse base of knowledge" [Julie T. 1970s]
- "Try not to worry about whether men will like you when you assert your ideas and expertise. Clarify your motives in your own head and then speak without fear or shame." [Rae 1940s]
- "Value your ideas and opinions, learn to take risks and thrive through adversity. If you see something or something happens to you that has left you victimized, speak up. Learn how money works and how you can work it, save it, make more of it so you have a plan that will make you self-reliant in your future." [KG 1960s]
- "Try not to let the past define you, nor ignore the present to think only about the future. Be mindful. Know where you are now." [MEW 1990s]



Here's my advice to a teenage woman if she asked me how to prepare for her future...

- "Raise your hand, speak up, elbow your way in, have a seat at the table, take a risk, and don't let failure keep you from doing it over and over again." [Elizabeth 1970s]
- "Find happiness with yourself first." [RK 1990s]
- "Believe in yourself. Try everything. Throw everything against the wall and see what sticks. What you think you want today may change tomorrow and that's OK. Just keep moving forward. Refuse to let perceived mistakes hold you back. Expectations can be overwhelming, so don't get caught in the vortex!" [KC 1950s]
- "Aim high and don't let anyone tell you that you can't succeed. Marriage and children is a choice ,not an obligation." [Janice 1950s]
- "You need a strong foundation to build a future upon. Get as much education as you can, find a strong and supportive partner who is not threatened by your growth and success. And be prepared to work VERY hard. Nothing that is worth having comes easily." [BH 1950s]

Here's my advice to a teenage woman if she asked me how to prepare for her future...

- "Try to be well informed in any situation...if you are not, do not be afraid to ask questions." [Crys 1980s]
- "Follow your own voice." [Patty 1950s]
- "Put yourself first, dump anyone who makes you feel otherwise; there's no hurry." [Libby 1960s]
- "Do well in school and work but enjoy life too (learn balance early). In summers, get a job / start a business, learn how the working world works." [Maria 1950s]
- "Be self-aware, confident and work smart not hard." [GD 1950s]
- "The only thing that can derail you from your plans is falling in love; when you fall in love, find someone who shares and supports your dreams and goals." [MJ 1960s]



Here's my advice to a teenage woman if she asked me how to prepare for her future...

- "There will be a lot of people who will try to dissuade you from reaching your full potential, and some of them women you respect. Don't let other people dictate who you can be, many times you are more capable than they think." [JN 1990s]
- "Get as much education as you can handle, never settle for less, you are your own best friend that knows you inside and out." [Elisa 1980s]
- "Go to college and wait to get married." [Joleen 1950s]
- "Never take one day of your life or the people in it for granted. Make every day count somehow, even if it is just to read or meditate or spend some time with people you care about. They will not be here forever. Life is precious and can be taken from you or someone you love in a heartbeat. Treasure your time with loved ones as well as time you need alone to yourself and have that balance as best you can. And never EVER take your health for granted. We are not living in a time where health is protected in the way it should be. You have to do your share to keep this gift if you are lucky to have it." [MK 1960s]



Here's my advice to a teenage woman if she asked me how to prepare for her future...

- "Follow an education in what you love and be prepared to do it alone." [Ily 1940s]
- "I would first ask her what she envisioned her future to be, or perhaps what she would like it to be. I would tell her to look at education as life-long and to take advantage of every educational opportunity that comes her way, be it college, vocational or continuing ed. I would tell her to have a financial plan so that she doesn't get in over her head before she has an income (wish someone had given me that advice). I would also tell her not to panic if things don't go as planned. Reassess and try again. Life is long." [Mary Anne 1940s]
- "Learn all you can, see the world, don't marry early, be able to support yourself." [Yolanda 1970s]





I am optimistic about the future for women
and here's why...

I'm optimistic about the future for women and here's why...

- "I am optimistic because, in this country, we have made so much progress in just one century. Of course advancement will now be slower and more complicated as that is the way with all change -- the first steps are giant. As the condition of women improves so does the human condition. Generally speaking, the same cannot be said with regard to our male counterparts." [Mary Anne 1940s]
- "I am optimistic because when I went back to school at an older age the young girls acted a lot funnier than I remember girls at that age. It was like it was okay for them to be totally funny and ridiculous, and I don't remember having totally hilarious friends that were girls when I was there age." [Julie T. 1970s]
- "It's taking a lot longer than we would have imagined but I love the young women I meet today. Yesterday I had the privilege of spending five hours with two young women (20s and 30s) who are smart, educated, articulate, and direct in ways women of my generation still struggle with. I cannot help but be optimistic. I see that women like this are thoroughly committed and unrelenting." [Rae 1940s]



I'm optimistic about the future for women and here's why...

- "The world will keep changing but the first thing we can do is breathe and the second is to build ourselves strong through our love." [MEW 1990s]
- "I am optimistic because we're doing big things." [RK 1990s]
- "To quote Anne Shirley from Anne of Green Gables, "...tomorrow is a new day with no mistakes in it yet!" What good comes from not being optimistic??? [KC 1950s]
- "I am optimistic because there are more excellent role models for women." [Janice 1950s]
- "Very optimistic. I see strong, intelligent and driven women everywhere I go. The barriers to our participation in nearly every aspect of today's life are crumbling (slowly) as we systematically dismantle them. Women are reaching the realization that the roles we can assume (stay-at-home-Mom, working woman, boss, soldier, etc.) are as varied and diverse as the women assuming them. I'm hopeful that woman learn to do a better job of accepting this diversity amongst our ranks." [BH 1950s]



I'm optimistic about the future for women and here's why...

- "I'm optimistic because I'm an optimistic person!" [Patty F. 1950s]
- "Girls and boys now are being raised by women and men who are more gender neutral and equality minded." [Libby 1960s]
- "Because women are smart and resilient and we help and rely on each other!" [Maria 1950s]
- "I am optimistic about the future for women....Women cannot be silent." [MJ 1960s]
- "I am optimistic about the future for women because every year we prove to be stronger and more persistent than ever before." [Elisa 1980s]
- "I'm optimistic; progress is slow but I've seen so many changes in my lifetime." [Joleen 1950s]
- "I always see the glass half-full." [Crys 1980s]
- "I'm optimistic about the future of women because voices of those like Nancy Pelosi, Hillary Clinton, and Michelle Obama are on the forefront. Girls are hearing and seeing women making changes." [Yolanda 1970s]





I'm not optimistic about the future for women and here's why...

I'm not optimistic about the future for women and here's why...

- "Women's lives, like men's, should be grounded in control of their own bodies. Why is a 21st century society still fighting about third-century issues? How can I be optimistic about the future for women even in this country when the same thing keeps happening over and over and over again?" [PD 1940s]
- "I am not optimistic for the future in the U.S. because of all of the conservative political attempts to shrink women's rights, to abolish Roe v. Wade, to abolish equal pay for equal work, to make birth control difficult to obtain, etc. Around the world I see religious and political attacks on women's rights as well as unpunished violence against women and girls. The religious attitudes will be very hard to overcome - not in my lifetime!" [BobbieK 1950s]



I'm not optimistic about the future for women and here's why...

- "I'm not very optimistic because of the growing environmental conditions and the neglect of our planet. We have a long way to go to reverse what has been done in our environment that has caused so many diseases. We can think change is coming but without enough people genuinely participating and being open about the truth of the lives we are all living, we simply do not have a chance of a better life on this planet. A year or so ago I might have answered differently, but based on the decline I have seen, I have grave doubts. I thought we might have been moving forward in this respect at one time but not now." [MK 1960s]
- "Many young women seem too ready to give up all the gains we procured for them in order to perform on some stupid reality TV show. They appear too ready to follow evangelical religious movements and seem to have no interest in social issues, civil rights, or liberation politics." [Ily 1940s]

