OURGENDERREVOLUTION

www.ourgenderrevolution.org

2016 High School Writing Challenge
Each year, the Idaho Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence engages young people to join the movement to end gender violence – abuse and sexual assault – by writing about what matters. What would the world be like if we were all truly equal to each other? Do you think boys are more valued than girls? What happens when boys are seen as more powerful than girls and gender-nonconforming youth?

This is the 7th Our Gender Revolution (formerly Love What’s Real) publication, compiled from over 3,000 student submissions for the Our Gender Revolution Writing Challenge.

Congratulations to 100+ Idaho student authors whose selections are published in this book – as well as the Our Gender Revolution Award Winners who displayed the highest levels of critical thinking and excellence!

A special thank you to Idaho’s teachers who encouraged their students to write about gender equity and to the many judges who read the amazing submissions by thousands of young people.

— Idaho Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence

www.ourgenderrevolution.org
We want to end gender inequality—and to do that we need everyone to be involved.

– Emma Watson

Our Gender Revolution believes in a world where everyone can thrive and fulfill their real potential.

Unfortunately, our history of unequal power between men and women has resulted in discrimination and gender violence – like abuse and sexual assault – against girls and women, transgender, and people who are gender non-conforming.

Violence against anyone is wrong. We know it can be different. Our vision for a better world begins with you!

Promote Gender Equity as a Way to End Gender Violence - Call to Action!

Action 1: Value characteristics like compassion and respect more than characteristics like domination or control. Strength comes from caring, not control!

Action 2: Connect to one another as human beings – be supportive and nurturing.

Action 3: Understand that gender inequity and gender violence are human rights issues for all of us. Everyone needs to be involved in creating gender equity and ending gender violence in all its forms. All persons – no matter their gender – deserve to be free from discrimination and abuse.
**Action 4:** Disrupt or confront anyone who is disrespectful. For instance explain why a discriminatory, sexist, or homophobic remark or joke is harmful and not funny.

**Action 5:** Be accountable for your thoughts, language and actions. Challenge yourself to ensure your actions and beliefs promote equity.

**Action 6:** Believe your friends if they talk about discrimination or violence they have experienced.

**Action 7:** Watch the videos of Idaho youth speaking out about ending a culture of domination and violence at www.ourgenderrevolution.org

**Action 8:** Watch the YouTube video of Emma Watson speaking at the United Nations on being a feminist and gender equity.

**Action 9:** Invite a community or tribal domestic and/or sexual violence program to lead the **Our Gender Revolution Conversation** in your class, club, or school. Download the guide on www.ourgenderrevolution.org.

**Action 10:** Movements begin with conversations – speak to your friends, family and community members about gender equity as a way to create a better world.
Dust

My grandmother,
her bones caked with desert sand
with skin thick as leather
told me I had grit.

Gazing down at unblemished hands,
I wondered where it was.

Now I’ve found it;
mixed with blood on my lips,
ground into my road-rash palms,
ringing in my ears,
smoldering in my chest
as I heave myself up from the dust,
determined to show them
that down is the last place I’ll stay

Linnea Boice
Boise High School
Kathy Rotchford – Teacher
whispering a revolution

a liquid voice of pure air whispers while
the violent vermilion voice of the world shouts.
the sweet ether sound knocks against
the harsh wall of senseless speech.
the small sound hits off with a breathless sigh,
a chip of red words falling with it.
not defeated, slightly battered, the words of wind
erode down the dictum.
as others join, the soft sound chisels.
the voices know
we are whispering a revolution.

Braden Christensen
Fruitland High School
Kara Walton – Teacher
Our Gender Revolution Award Winner

My father chiding, wipes away my makeup
“Boys and girls are like day and night.”
All my life, I’ve walked in daylight
With clear, masculine boundaries
As my sisters thrive under the moon, dancing
Others in the day tell me, “Be strong, manly.”
But the stars nurture graceful kinds of strength.
I adore the warmth of day, but
I envy those who succeed the sun, for they are allowed
To be beautiful

Tairex Clayton
Middleton High School
Melinda Garcia – Teacher
Our Gender Revolution Award Winner

I Am Me

“You’re a girl,”
They told me firmly,
“you can’t fix cars,
that’s a man’s job.”
Defeat
Back inside I go
Waiting
Thinking
Wanting

Here I am
Under this 1939 Chevy
The smell of oil in the frigid air
The grease on my dull hands
Thinking,
“Here I am,
where are you?”
I am me, the best I can be

Anna Gable
Timberline High School
Taryn Waddell – Teacher
A Letter to My Sun / A Letter to My Son

I call my love a Sun.
It is because
My Sun trekked across the sky,
& life trailed after my Sun.
But my Sun did not follow me.

My Son:
I beg you now, do your utmost
To be the Sun,
The Son,
That respects the moon,
Loves its shine the same
Not because it’s better (because
you are equals)
Remember that she willingly revolves
Around you.
Be the Sun,
That likewise orbits
Around her

Marisa Gonzalez-Mabbutt
Nampa High School
Jon Buckridge – Teacher
Here’s How It Went:

she sat in
the back row leftmost corner,
shriveling like a parched string bean forgotten in the heat.
Like she didn’t want to be seen or noticed or understood.
But she sat in the back row in the leftmost corner because
that was where the window was;
when an onslaught of masculine superiority grasped at the snarls of her hair
she’d shake it loose and watch the sun
And pretend she was a man.

Elizabeth Lee
Boise High School
Sharon Hanson – Teacher
Equal

He says he believes in equality but when she makes a mistake he laughs.

“It’s cute when she tries.”

Support is sometimes there for a woman when she decides to scale a mountain but the first time her foot slips she tumbles into an abyss of

“I knew she couldn’t do it.”

For a woman to gain respect she must be the fastest climber, the one who doesn’t fail.

Only then is she considered equal.

Hannah Martinez
Vision Charter School
Becky Mitchell – Teacher
Endure

A tiny seed planted in the rich, black, musty soil of ambiguity, I began.
Sprouting roots, despite the lack of flowing encouragement, I grew.
Out of the heavy, dank soil of oppression, that clung to my tender youth, I rose.
Strengthened by the chilly winds of injustice, that demanded silence, I matured.
Reaching willowy branches to shelter the innocent saplings, I nurtured.
Standing tall and straight, freed from the stereotypes of time, I endure.

Cassidy Nelson
Middleton High School
Melinda Garcia – Teacher
A World Without Domination

Walking down the hall
The walls are painted with colors
From the delicate white of a lilac petal,
To the rich black color of fresh coffee.
Just like the students,
All shades diverse and unique,
Beautiful.
Mixed like the northern lights,
All working together to create
A masterpiece.
You reflect on what you see,
A world where
Honesty is easier,
Love wins,
Peace, Serenity prevails,
All because of the colors
on the wall.

Kade Olsen
Timberline High School
Taryn Waddell – Teacher
In a Perfect World

In a perfect world
I wouldn’t be scared of the darkness
I wouldn’t have to look over my shoulder every time
I wouldn’t have to hold pepper spray in one hand and 9-1-1 in the other
In a perfect world, Catcalls would turn into beautiful hellos
Girls would be taught to walk freely and not fear their own family
In a perfect world, We would be free.

Victoria Pahler
Gem State Adventist Academy
Kimberley Mitchell – Teacher
A Warrior

I am a girl, but not just any girl; I am a warrior that will never fall even if my armor is shattered. I am gold, my skin has been kissed by the sun a thousand times, my hair defies gravity. I never stop. I wear my stripes on my back. I wear them proudly. I love to fight for the freedom that I deserve. I am strong. I am Black. I am a warrior.

Victoria Pahler
Gem State Adventist Academy
Kimberley Mitchell – Teacher
Read This

A picture may tell a thousand words
but I
contain thousands of colorfully, illustrated, stories
My blood is ink and when I breathe
Pages after pages are written in
my name
There is no one who will ever know the whole book
so you
should never
try to contain me in a sentence

Chayce Reynolds
Vallivue High School
Rachael Barr – Teacher
Boy, they will line you up on brick walls
place rulers on your chest
to measure how far it can expand
while hyper masculinity whispers in your ear
letting you know from now on anger will be the only
emotion worth acknowledging.
and when you finally break
they’ll bottle your tears
and tuck them on the shelf
with your mother and sister
while they call to you on days
you just want to feel.

Fatima Tall
Vallivue High School
Rachael Barr – Teacher
Fourth Grade

In elementary school
my classmates coughed conspiracy
saying I came down on my knees
in prayer much like the twin towers did
that my friendship was destructive
as if my heart a time bomb
they thought I’d explode
they wrote false stories of me
in tattered notebooks and lunch time chatter
they yelled I was dangerous
and on a Tuesday there was an implosion
but the only one who was hurt
was me

Fatima Tall
Vallivue High School
Rachael Barr – Teacher
Courage

It takes courage to stand alone
As well to stand up for yourself
I think courage is a tool
It takes courage to be yourself.
Courage is owning everything a person is
Courage makes you stronger
Courage makes you conscious
Courage makes you brave
Courage lets your voice be heard
Courage is triumph and not fear
Courage is quiet
Courage is trying and not giving up
Courage only makes you stronger.

Consuelo Alvarado
Wilder High School
Charles Abel – Teacher
Our Voices

They say that we’re just kids,  
That we don’t understand.  
They say that we can’t change things,  
But they can’t see our plans  
We’re the ones who can change the world  
The ones whose voices can grow.  
Our voices all need to be heard  
The world needs to know  
We are the next generation,  
And though we can’t change the past,  
If we use our voices the right way,  
Our world might have a chance

Ryska Baird
Vision Charter School
Becky Mitchell – Teacher
Startling Similarity

There is a box
I have constructed painstakingly.
It is my life’s work.
It contains assortments
Of things collected along the way
Images, words, desires
That describe me.
Yet,
I am beginning to see
That your box resembles mine
And her box mimics another’s
Now I wonder if I am the true sculptor
Or if this is a box created for me
Finely tuned by expectation
And suddenly I am trapped
In my own story

Indigo Blauch-Chappell
Boise High School
Cindy Hartley – Teacher
Tunnel Vision

History repeats itself
in patterns of black and white
The stories passed on
and applied to life
carry a consistent form
of separation in the
form of us and them.
Our cultivated desires and ideas
create tunnel vision among individuals
through single representations.
Our world’s diversity deserved to be
known to its numerous extents
otherwise
history will continue to repeat itself
In patterns of black and white

Indigo Blauch-Chappell
Boise High School
Cindy Hartley – Teacher
Unafraid

Strolling underneath golden streetlamps, hands blissfully empty instead of white knuckles clutched around keys and pepper spray.

Out to lunch, no longer on the lookout for wolves and lions in business suits grinning sharp-toothed smiles and hungry for something more than a sandwich.

I await these moments when I can finally evict the fear trembling in my ribcage, but I know they’ll only arrive when my gender ceases to be a safety hazard

Linnea Boice

Boise High School
Kathy Rotchford – Teacher
Morgan

A passion for running
Muscles, long and lean.
Bones covered with a thin layer of flesh
A perfect size for you

Judging eyes and gossiping whispers
All meant to condemn

Left out, left behind, forgotten
too small,
too skinny,
too weak

Others’ thoughts
binding chains.
The number on the scale,
A prison guard

Dehumanizing the figure
of just
a perfect you.

Abbigail Brown
Middleton High School
Melinda Garcia – Teacher
Break Through

What is a voice?
How does one find this fiction’s object that has never been used?
One has heard of it before, but
not from oneself.
Resting in turmoil is this voice.
Silenced by society and its ambiguous standards.
A break.
That is all it takes to shatter the mirror
that is the reflection of repression.
A bird soaring through the sky,
that is the freedom of a voice.
A voice is freedom.

Adriana Bryant
Mountain View High School
Kristin Galloway – Teacher
A Chain

From the fire of determination and constant pounding out of imperfections;
a single link is born.
Not one link is more exceptional than the next.
Each has its own experience and capability of greatness.
Success is not by domination of one, but by cooperation of the masses.
To function, they all must support each other.
Link by link, a chain is formed.
A single link will suffice, but a chain will flourish.

Adriana Bryant
Mountain View High School
Kristin Galloway – Teacher
Giving Up the Act

From the moment a female is born, they are assigned a role in the performance that society’s standards.
For too long women have been oppressed by The endless burdens society has bestowed upon them.
No longer.
One small act of defiance by every individual woman is like adding a single water drop to an impending hurricane.
Women must unite and bow before their audience, the world, and give up this charade forever.

Adriana Bryant
Mountain View High School
Kristin Galloway – Teacher
Gender vs. Heart

A person isn’t labeled by the pigment of their skin, judge by male or female.
nor by their visual image A repaired world or gender.
Each and every person is one that accepts
is part of one a person for their heart
beautiful masterpiece and personality rather than
called mankind. their physical appearance.
An unbroken world A world that seems
is one that doesn’t So far away from
The one we live in now.

Austin Burtness
Juniper Hills High School
Kris Vowell – Teacher
A Colorless World

She sat quietly in the crowded room,
While her mind rushed with thoughts and ideas
That she would never share,
Because she lives in a world where women can’t think
Where women can’t imagine nor create colorful paintings with their minds
She sat stroking her paintbrush of words across her lips
Never to let them escape
Because she lived in a world where women can’t be the artists of their own canvases.

Katie Camp
Soda Springs High School
Terah Fetzer – Teacher
Let’s Discuss Stereotypes

An ideal woman? Oh, that’s easy.
Pretty, smart, adventurous, dainty
Dripping in self-proclaimed sex-appeal

Beautiful, always
Spending hours conforming to her best friend’s words.

But wait.
Stop.

The prim, put-together object I present
Is not the raw me
Heaven forbid I produce flaws,
Suddenly not wearing makeup is a sin

Why must women be oppressed
For living in their own skin?

Rebecca Carriere
Middleton High School
Melinda Garcia – Teacher
Advice from a Rodeo Queen

Battle through, be tough
That’s what I call grit

Music blaring, butterflies of excitement
Horses dancing, reins tightening
Announcers complimenting my effort

While whispers still insult
Too pretty, to be tough
A simple job for girls
These words are like dirt in my mouth

Battle through, be tough
Prove them wrong
The daily roles of a rodeo queen:
Giving, respectful, hardworking

Advice to that little girl
Battle through, be tough
That’s what I call grit

Karissa Carter
Fruitland High School
Kara Walton – Teacher
Strong women I admire you.

Strong women pushing through limits and expectations.

Strong women I applaud you.

Strong women keep pushing, keep searching, never settle.

Strong woman I strive to be you

**Sierra Caudill**  
*Vision Charter School*  
*Becky Mitchell – Teacher*
Are You a Boy or a Girl?

My gender and I don’t get along. It’s always squirming twisting ripping through me. I have to bite my tongue bloody to keep it from escaping out of my mouth. My gender isn’t “boy” my gender isn’t “girl,” but I cannot say that out loud. I want to vomit spit spray puke up “both” “neither” “I’m not answering that,” but I don’t. I just smile. “I’m a girl.” My teeth are bloody, and I smile.

Dani Chandler-Haas
Boise High School
Sharon Hansen – Teacher
Our Gender Generation

As a girl in this generation
Although it’s acceptable to
Wear makeup
Like the color pink
Paint your nails
Like flowers
Cry and
Think things are beautiful
It’s not acceptable to
Be strong
Sports-minded
Be fearless and a leader
Although it’s acceptable to
As a boy in this generation
(Read From Bottom to Top Now)

Alison Chanhthala
Mountain View High School
Jake Lutz – Teacher
We live in a world of labels…
Pretty or Ugly
Skinny or Fat
Smart or Dumb
Masculine or Feminine
We live in a world where we have pre-defined labels
We are pre-defined people
Told who we are from the very beginning…
We were either…
…Perfect or broken
…Wanted or abandoned
We fit. Or we didn’t.
It’s time we try something else on.

Nia Chappell
Boise High School
Jennifer Robbins-Smith – Teacher
If We Are Individuals…

We are a country of individuals,
Individuals who are categorized and stereotyped.
“Athletes are thin and hot-headed!”
“Goths are dark and rude!”
“Gays are colorful and deep spirited!”

Athletes can be sweet and gain weight,
Goths may be happy and kind,
Gays could be religious and quiet.

If we are individuals,
Not one person is the same.

We create stereotypes to help us understand,
But stereotypes leave people misunderstood.

Kayla Creutzberg
Grangeville High School
Kelli Tinervin – Teacher
so you’re telling me
that girls are weak
and boys are stronger
and yet I beat
half of them at the mile?
You tell me that
boys are smarter,
when I’d like to see them
write one fan fiction.
And the last thing you tell me
is that I should try to be
like a boy?
in case you haven’t noticed
I’m strong
I’m brave
and I’m glad being a female.
thank you very much!

Lauren Cummins
Burley High School
Jodie Adams – Teacher
Be You by Justice

When you’re trying to be someone you lose yourself in someone else’s life. when you try to be what people want you to be you lose your INDIVIDUALITY when you give into the monster and let the evil shine through you lose you learn from your mistakes don’t live in the past allow the past to shape you into who you are to become you just might surprise yourself with who you are. be you.

Justice Dalton
Raft River High School
Arlene Ward – Teacher
I put on my makeup, but not your normal mascara and lip-gloss.
I put on my green, brown, and black.
with my rifle in my arms and a deer on my mind.
I hear the laughs behind my back.
The men saying I’m here to cook it, not kill it.
Despite what they say I need to do.
I march into the trees and BAM!
Who is laughing now?

Cheyenne Daniels
Soda Springs High School
Caitlin Pankau – Teacher
The World We Live In

The world we live in.

Individuals straight from the womb of life,
Converted into the modern being
The moment we comprehend
And vocalize our understandings.

Blindfold those eyes,
shut your mouth.

Taught to be stuck in oblivion.

Taught to be ignorant.

Taught to value materialism.

The world we live in.

We are less,
They are more.

Do not voice your thoughts.

Do not use your creativity.

The world we live in.

Aundrea Dickard

Melba High School
Laura Heritage – Teacher
Quiet No More

Quiet girl, quiet woman, quiet person. 
Quiet is my M.O. 
You treat me like I’m nothing. 
my voice is like a flame, red and burning hot, you will get burned. 
All my life I’ve been a ghost, unseen, 
that changes now. 
See my voice stand up for itself, hear me when I say no. 
I am my own person and I will stand tall, 
when I am no longer quiet at all.

Makenna Doramus
Vision Charter School
Becky Mitchell - Teacher
My Voice

People judge the loud person, who speaks her mind. What they don’t know is that she is braver than any of them. When she speaks her mind is heard, seen and understood. Her voice paints colorful images for others around her and takes them to far off places, where they can be themselves. People hear her and want to be near her, for she is a woman who speaks her mind loud and clear.

Makenna Doramus
Vision Charter School
Becky Mitchell - Teacher
Loud and purposeful.
With meaning; not just to hear myself.
Stern, but willing.
When I talk.
People stop, they look, and they listen.
No muttering or mumbling.
No repeating myself.
When I talk.
Women: child bearers, homemakers, and wives.
Not this woman, I want more.
I want to be heard.
A pretty face, with a closed mouth.
Sewn shut by society
I’m taking out the stitches and will be heard.
When I talk.

Candida Eldridge
Vallivue High School
Zack Barclay – Teacher
Expectations

Confounded by the apron
wrapped around my waist.
Wishing it to be replaced
by slacks and a badge, CEO
Lectures of a homemaker
occupy my brain,
criticizing my life choice.
So the slacks remain,
covered in a layer of dust.
The CEO badge never gained surface,
buried under news articles,
Magazines, and family traditions.

Markel Ellsworth
Middleton High School
Melinda Garcia – Teacher
A Single Story

We don’t come from a single story.

We are made up from more than enough.

It’s dangerous to have just one view,

Because that view could not be the right one.

If we only know the story that comes from the media,

The truth is hidden from us.

A whole person isn’t made up,

From a single story that doesn’t explain much.

Therese Etoka
Boise High School
Cindy Hartley – Teacher
Guts & Grits

You don’t have to be home-oriented,
Go out into the world and pursue your career.
You don’t have to be easily influenced,
Make decisions because they’re for you.
You don’t have to be masculine,
Six-pack abs don’t prove anything.
You don’t have to rarely cry,
Showing emotion is healthy and okay.

Show them who’s boss.
Stay true and do you.
Fight for what’s right
Join a feminist group.
Stand your ground,
Live for you.

Therese Etoka
Boise High School
Cindy Hartley – Teacher
Express Yourself

2015:
Homosexual Marriage is legal
Bi-Gender bathrooms in process
Gender Identity curriculums fabricating

Yet we still oppress beautiful people,
Treating them like minorities.
We push for equal rights then laugh in its face.

The decision to slice my hair off my head
Remains a treacherous one.
You sneer:
“Butch Lesbian”
“Trans Boy”
Tight lipped, as if they were taboo.

I know I’m beautiful.
No matter my preference,
I am comfortable with who I am.

Kyla Fitch
Middleton High School
Mike Brown – Teacher
Influenced Perception

Her first impression of a painting is original and different,
But heard opinions of others start seeming coherent.

Through her eyes, a painting tells a specific story,
Relating directly to her own problems and glories.

They continue to pester her with stories of what it should be,
Until they change her perception into what is no longer reality.

Katrina Frei
Grangeville High School
Kelli Tinervin – Teacher
listen to me

my voice is a speck of dust
lost amid all your distrust
look at her, so small and frail
how could she be anything?
just because society sees you
as a giant over me
doesn’t mean I can’t chew through your roots
and set my small voice free

Emma Fresk
Gem State Adventist Academy
Kimberley Mitchell – Teacher
Put On Lipstick.
Cover Your Flaws.
Show More Skin.
Dumb Yourself Down.
Simply Play the Part.
These are the Demands of Society.
Well, Burn the Script.
Forget the Lines.
Be Original.
Show Them what You Have.
Show Them what Matters!
Opinions.
Values.
A Voice.
THAT is a What You Should Flaunt!
Do Not Crumble Under the Pressures of Society.
For Women are Worth More than they are Told.
Just…Be…Bold.

Reagen Frost
Compass Honors High School
Ric Jacob – Teacher
As my arms stretch above my head my ribs should be countable, they say
When I study my reflection my face should be scar-less, they say
Men should have to tear their eyes away from me, they say
You should like the way you look, they say
Curves are pretty, they say
If only you were confident, they say
Beautiful the way you are, they say
Why are you so confused, they ask

**Chloe Glass**
*Kuna High School*
*Sylvia Fine – Teacher*
Bitch is Me

By societal definition I am a bitch.

A raging, relentless, antagonizing bitch.

I choose to speak out but am harassed.

Demoralization, degradation, categorization,

Abused by a word whose appropriate definition is female dog.

However, bitch is empowering. ‘Bitch’ means I’m getting under your skin. You’re afraid of my power and so choose to chain me to a spiteful yet misunderstood term.

I embrace my label and will define it how I please

Because ‘BITCH’…is me.

Alexa Glick
Centennial High School
Debbie Paxton – Teacher
Not Her Fault

How do I express my identity and sexuality in a world filled with judgment and blame, 
Instead we choose to shame. 
Do my tantalizing long legs turn you on? 
Is my mini skirt too provocative? 
How ‘bout the sexy charcoal heels I have on? 
Since when have men determined women’s acceptable outfitting? 
One should not assume my intentions based on my clothes. 
I am not asking for ‘it’. So how can it be my fault?

Alexa Glick 
Centennial High School 
Debbie Paxton – Teacher
Mirror

Women are –
Glittery heels,
Frilly blouses,
Glitzy lipstick.
As if you can only be beautiful
If you are processed
Through the machine of the world.

I am –
Simple hair,
Casual tees,
Comfy sneakers.
Clean kept,
Yet unfettered as the moon.
A mirror.
No hidden secrets.
No playing games with Barbie.

I see the beauty of simplicity.
Why can’t you?

Emilie Grow
Middleton High School
Melinda Garcia – Teacher
Sexism,
Racism,
Able-ism.
They all have different meaning
But they are the same.
They all end the same.
With judgment,
With hate,
With pain.
Pushing,
Name calling,
Hitting.
What is the point for all this hate?
When it all ends the same –
In pain.

Thalia Guajardo
Wilder High School
Charles Abel – Teacher
Girls Will Be

Boys will be boys. 
But what will girls be?
Girls will be doctors, writers, and engineers.
Girls will be whatever they want to be,
Or so they tell us.
“You throw like a girl.”
“You hit like a girl.”
“Don’t be such a girl.”
How can we achieve our dreams,
in a world that constantly belittles, and ridicules us?
How can we succeed,
when the world around us has already decided
That we must fail?

Kylia Heaps
Vision Charter School
Rebecca Mitchell – Teacher
Equality

Equality I say, but you push me away you tell me to go back into place. Excuse me? My opinions are much more than your measly little snarks, I will not go “Back into place.” NO. I will stand here and here I stand making my claim. You say our land is free, but what’s freedom without equality?

Madison Heil
Xavier Charter School
Amanda Loosli – Teacher
Gender Revolution

Amelia Earhart was the first person ever to fly solo across the Atlantic. Joan of Arc disguised herself as a man and led an army. Queen Elizabeth saved a nation. Sacagawea walked over 8,000 miles guiding Lewis and Clark across the United States. Marie Curie is one of two winners of the Physics Nobel Prize. Women can do great things just like men, we’re just underestimated which makes us work twice as hard to prove you wrong.

Sabree Herrera
Mackay Junior/Senior High School
Stephanie Green – Teacher
Is it a Crime?

I have no shame to say who I am
Even if that means, that I’m not a man
For I’m strong, I’m brave and I show no fear
But that’s not what anyone seems to want to hear
Is it a crime to show my true colors?
Or to speak my mind to another?
I guess I do not care what they say
For I’d rather be myself any day.

Trinity Hobdey
Boise High School
Jennifer Robbins-Smith – Teacher
Imagine

Imagine a world,
A world without dominion.
A perfect society,
Where everyone would be free,
Where everyone
Would be equal.
The women of past times,
Who have suffered for the rights of others,
And for themselves
Would not be in vain.
We, as women, would be
HEARD.
We would be taken
SERIOUSLY.
We would be
RESPECTED,
Equivalent to everyone on the earth.
Imagine that world
Feel it.
Grasp it.
Now,
Let’s make it our REALITY.

Brooklynn Jarvis
Mountain View High School
Kristin Galloway – Teacher
I’m Human Too

Beneath the blanket of favorites
My voice is muffled to a whisper.
The suppressed emotions
From so many years
Are nearly to their boiling point.
Just because I’m a girl
Doesn’t mean I shouldn’t be heard.
Just because I’m a girl
Doesn’t mean I should be cast aside.
I’m human too.
Countless ideas
Are reaching up inside of me,
Like flames snaking up a dead pine tree
Just hear me!
Please…
Because I’m human, too.

Brooklyn Jarvis
Mountain View High School
Kristin Galloway – Teacher
Finding Your Voice

Just a woman-
Over and over-
Repeating.
You’re just a woman.
I speak my mind in hopes of understanding,
But none but those of my female body feel the rope of inequity,
Hanging me by my throat
Stop that.
You are a woman.
You are beautiful,
You are righteous.
You hold the throne of ferocious prosperity.
Accept yourself,
Speak your mind.
You are a woman.

Tayann Jorgensen
Ririe High School
Annette Morell – Teacher
The One Piece

Does a piece of a puzzle
Represent the entire puzzle

Does a piece of a person
Represent the person

Why can we judge the person
But not the puzzle

Don’t be quick to judge them
Based on a little piece of information

Find more pieces to see their whole story
Like you would do for a puzzle

They aren’t a single piece of a single story
They are a whole picture

Rachel Kelley
Grangeville High School
Kelli Tinervin–Teacher
Simplifying Fear

People see what they want to see because they’re afraid
That if they look deeper in others
That they’ll have to look deeper in themselves.

They simplify others to try to comprehend themselves better,
They try to differentiate themselves from the rest of the world
And the only way to do that is to simplify everyone else.

They’d rather simplify everyone else
In hopes that by doing that
They too could become a single story.

Emily Kernutt
Grangeville High School
Kelly Tinervin – Teacher
Roots of discriminatory “isms” all stem from one source. Hate.
Hate of the unknown.
Hate of something different.
Hate allows us to justify the things we do to those we don’t understand.
We have to rise up above this primitive impulse.
We must live in peace and understanding, respecting each other’s rights.
We must abolish the hate we have for those who are different.
We can open our minds to be more accepting towards everyone.

Patrick Larimer
Middleton High School
Mike Brown – Teacher
The Winds of Oppression

We are told that we live in a perfect world. We don’t.

Equality is just a dream.

Society asks for change, but denies its support.
Those who pursue equality are called stupid, “different” and silenced
When the noose of conformity is around my neck

I have looked to others for hope

Malala Yousafazai spoke out, and paid the price
The winds of oppression beat down on our backs

But a million candles make a firestorm

Alexis Lawson

Gem State Adventist Academy
Kimberley Mitchell – Teacher
Prove Them Wrong

Passing through the doors to the weight room, all eyes turn to her; it doesn’t go unnoticed that they are all unmistakably male. She walked straight to the bench and put an unfeminine amount of weight on the bar. Lying down with no spotter, she proceeded to bench 30 reps. All the men in the room stood in wonder, unable to return to their workouts as she glided gracefully out of the room.

Megan Lawton
Mountain View High School
Kristin Galloway – Teacher
The Sun Looks a Lot Like a Desk Lamp

Sometimes, I close my eyes and forget that I am Asian, that my parents worked hard so I could do better--
Sometimes, I think about bridges
Approach some homeless men around a fire, say “Hey.”
Apples, potatoes in my pockets
stewed with a mishmash of carrots, lean meat
Scents mixing: stale cigarette breath, wet wool
exchanging our childhood dreams.
One word--
“Hey.”
means so many things.
I open my eyes and squint at my textbook.

Elizabeth Lee
Boise High School
Sharon Hanson – Teacher
Laws Against Humanity:

My mother was sent so she would have a chance but wasn’t given one due to her ‘status’ woman, Mexican, minor

I like to think she showed them a master’s degree and a home not quite so gratis teacher, mother, human

Rosana Lenhart
Middleton High School
Mike Brown – Teacher
Freed from Dragons

All face dragons
Foes
Enemies;
We can be
Beaten back, beaten down
Chased into obscurity
Left to the shadows
Lost,
    Silent,
    Submissive
Or
We can stand and fight
Wage war
Strike

Bright sword in hand, voices raised;
Only threats are feared
Dragon’s fire, foe’s lies, enemies’ swords
You are stronger;
With voice
Dragons are slain
    Foes conquered
    Enemies vanquished
    Words rescued;
All face dragons
But, with a voice
All dragons can be beaten

Hannah Maynes
Compass Academy
Stephanie Remsburg – Teacher
Don’t Save Me

Well thank you, kind sir.
Didn’t that make my day.
I just love being reminded that I have no future.
My hair is blonde? Gee, I really didn’t know.
I wasn’t aware that my hair color and gender determined my intelligence.
Oh, you think I need saving.
That’s wonderful.
Remind me again why I care?
Why can’t I save myself?

Hannah Miller
Gem State Academy
Kimberley Mitchell – Teacher
Grit and Gender

Women are confined to cooking and cleaning,
Men are expected to never shed tears,
Why do we still think like this?
It’s been so many years.

Men can be cheerleaders
If that’s their dream,
And women can be football players,
A valued member of the team

Don’t give up,
Go beyond gender roles,
Show some grit,
And achieve your goals

Trew Mittleider
Vision Charter School
Becker Mitchell – Teacher
I was walking down a narrow road
To where? Who knows.
I noticed how life was
Without people who affected you so much.
Life felt so much better
When you didn’t have someone on your back
Everyday telling you what’s best for you
Telling how much you need to do better.
Saying you weren’t good enough
I walked back to my cell
Where all my questioning
Happened on a daily basis.

**Dulce Monter Lopez**
*Wilder High School*
*Charles Abel – Teacher*
The Time Is Now

Imagine a time where your opinion mattered, where your voice was needed.

It doesn’t matter what people say or do.
Nor does it matter what they think of you.

It’s not their life but it is yours.
Be the change,

become who you wish to become,
achieve what you want to achieve,
dream your biggest dreams,
but most importantly...

Be who you want to be.
For the time is now let your voice be heard.

Sabrina Moore
Fruitland High School
Kara Walton – Teacher
Imagine

I fall asleep as my world awakens
No hatred. No discrimination.
Imagine
Rosa Parks taking the seat the white man offers at the front
Imagine
Witnessing Trayvon Martin hugging his mom once more
Imagine
Equality is all we know
Imagine Malala Yousafzai sitting at a lecture in college.
Imagine
War is only a myth
Imagine
9/11 was a day of babies born, anniversaries celebrated, and children’s laughter
Imagine what we could be

Kristina Morrison
Gem State Adventist Academy
Kimberley Mitchell – Teacher
Pushing Up Mountains

Standing tall among the throng of voices,
Insistently telling me where I belong,
Demanding painful submission.
I’m looking up at the bleak summit
Where the promise of free speech clings,
Ascending religious and cultural ridges.

Climbing over centuries of stereotypes,
Belayed to a more experienced cragswoman,
Who keeps the rope taut,
As I clamber over other people’s rules and
The towering peaks of angst and ignorance.
In spite of it all, I push upwards.

Cassidy Nelson
Middleton High School
Melinda Garcia – Teacher
In a Perfect World

In a perfect world
Women toil outdoors,
Lifting bags of dark soil,
The sun shimmering off long locks of hair.

Little girls scale great trees,
And aren’t intimidated by the filth,
But they bask in it,
Huddled amongst the leaves.

The woman is not the secretary
She is the pilot, the doctor,
Healing patients, healing the planet.
In a perfect world.

Cassidy Nelson
Middleton High School
Melinda Garcia – Teacher
Beauty

Beauty, Defined by the eye of the beholder

Bikini
Skin, plunging neck lines
Sexy, beautiful, skinny Object.

Burqa
Nothing seen, Covered head to toe, Servant.

Westernized? Radically conservative?
Opposite worlds

Objects, Servants
Exposed, mysterious, Transparent, conserved

Oppressed in each culture
Neither extreme bestows self-esteem

Jayde Nielsen
Middleton High School
Melinda Garcia – Teacher
Come my sisters.
Let us join hands and work towards a common goal.
For none of us is as strong or as smart as all of us.
Let us find courage and strength
From those before us who dared to change the world.
Joan of Arc, Susan B. Anthony, Dorothea Dix, Marie Curie.
Let us become worth remembering.
Be a force greater than armies
And leave behind a graceful yet powerful touch on the world.

Charlotte Nyblade
Burley High School
Becca Tateoka – Teacher
Who Am I?

Good question.
I’m the one
Who questions preset plans of existence.
The one
Who takes stands to show I’m different.
The one
Whose voice rings out with sledgehammer force.
You fear me
Because I dare to challenge authority.
You admire me
Because I won’t conform to standards.
I’m a martyr for women, gays, and every minority.
I’m not alone.
Deep down I exist in everyone.

Charlotte Nyblade
Burley High School
Becca Tateoka – Teacher
Jenny

Dear Jenny,
Some say people like you should be put down
That people with Down’s Syndrome
lead to the pointless life of a vegetable.
You know what, Jenny?
Screw them.
We know you too have dreams
fears

hopes
passion.
You want to be a ballerina with 3 kids and a dog?
Go for it.
You inspire me, Jenny.
Every Single Day.
You’re sweet,
But you’re also a tiger
And I’m here
To help you roar.

Laura Pape
Boise High School
Cindy Hartley – Teacher
The Blade

It’s winter--my legs are cold
I don’t dare to break their dress code
Goosebumps spread across my skin
I shiver uncontrollably
Run as fast as you can
maybe the cold won’t catch up to you
You can wear tights;
But even tights are like a vent,
allowing air to pierce you like a blade.
What would they say if you broke their code?
Would they say anything at all,
or simply,
silently
just stare

Haylie Parker
Middleton High School
Melinda Garcia – Teacher
Not

Born in an Idaho town,
here I’m raised.
Republican center of a Red state,
where guns and God are praised.

A small town boy,
Feeds the cattle.
Potato lovin’ hick
Guns and knives and my chattel.

When you look at me
What do you perceive?
Not what I truly am
nor all I can achieve.

I love big cities,
Talking with a liberal crowd
No fear of God or guns.
Unwrap me from that shroud

Matt Payne
Grangeville High School
Kelli Tinervin – Teacher
Shoulders

Why should I cover my shoulders?
I am not forcing you to look.

A shoulder is a simple part of anatomy,
it is not different than an ear or hand.

Maybe you should learn that there’s more
to a girl than her body.

But go ahead, stare at my shoulder.
I’m too busy planning to change the world
to care about your ignorant thoughts.

Torri Peck
Soda Springs High School
Caitlin Pankau – Teacher
Frosted Glass

Eclipsed away from the world,
Shrouded in a fog of misconceptions
“Man up” — men can’t show emotion.
“Man up” — men have to be strong.
Crumbling faster and faster just staring at the distorted reflection —
What society thinks you should be.
Who says crying makes you weak?
Why must feelings emasculate?
It takes true strength to wipe the steam from the mirror
And take a look
At the man who once hid behind frosted glass.

Alyssa Peters
Timberline High School
Greg Hoetker – Teacher
Different

I’ve always been told to go with the flow
To watch the rain hit the window
Be fine with others’ rude remarks

But what if I want to swim upstream
Dance in the rain
And stand up for myself?

Does that make me different?
Then I’m fine with being different
As long as I can be me

Kamri Peterson
Middleton High School
Mike Brown – Teacher
They say we are sluts when we wear short skirts
They say we are insecure when we wear a ton of makeup
They think we are objects;
They take advantage of us
They think it’s OK
We have feelings too;
We aren’t perfect
We try our best
We are daughters of God
We have goals in life that we want to pursue;
We are who we choose to be

**Carolyne Ramirez**
*Meridian High School*
*Courtney Murray – Teacher*
Not Porcelain

Worry less boy, her heart is but steel
She doesn’t hang off of your words like a tilted picture frame of happy memories barely hanging onto the nail
Stop thinking that this misdirection has been labeled affection just because you lost the map
She didn’t become half a woman just because she entered a relationship
Tissue boxes and ice cream will not be needed tonight because a break up doesn’t mean you broke her

Chayce Reynolds
Vallivue High School
Rachael Barr – Teacher
The Stand

I stand
While a tsunami of lights becomes all I can see.
I stand
And allow them to dictate who I should be.
I stand
While the sounds of our existence penetrate my clouded mind.
I stand
And take in thoughts that are not mine.
I stand
Witness to a world where no one is free
I stand
for who else will, if not me?

Chase Robinson
*Sage International School of Boise*
*Faith Hansen – Teacher*
Masterpiece

With a single story
You hear what you want to hear
You see what you want to see
And you believe what is easiest

But what about the other side of the moon?
What about the other end of the rainbow?

There are many strokes to one painting
Instead of looking at one line of a drawing
Why not focus on the whole masterpiece?

Alexia Rose
Grangeville High School
Kelli Tinervin – Teacher
A World Without Domination

The halls of the dissatisfying school,
Encouraging people to converse in their array of groups.
Your friends,
Athletic, healthy, ballers.
The not-so-friends of yours,
Smart, innovative,
glasses-wearing.
Are you better than them?
They better than you?
Pride. Domination.
Acting as if you are better
Than the student seated next to you.
Never speaking more than a word.
Keeping your head high
As you lie to yourself that it isn’t wrong.

Mackenzie Royce
Middleton High School
Melinda Garcia – Teacher
Unappreciated Distinguished Women

Women in today’s society are often not seen as powerful figures because of our male influenced world. From engineering to world politics, it is an uphill battle for women to achieve their accredited status. Women must fight, undergo hardships and be willing to sacrifice any and all consequences to gain achievement in this male dominated world. It is not that women aren’t qualified, but the ideas and views of the public eye portray that philosophy.

Brooklyn Ruwe
Mountain View High School
Kristin Galloway – Teacher
I walk to work,
I walk to school,
I walk to walk.

And all the while
words and phrases
leap out at me.

“Go back to Africa!”
“Go back to wherever you came from!”

“Get out of here, refugee!”

But even worse are the sympathizers

Isn’t America supposed to be the a place
Where everybody is rich?
But, why do they all seem to think
That my country
is full of the dead and dying?

Tanner Rydalch
Middleton High School
Mike Brown – Teacher
“Space”

They stare at you without remorse,
They don’t know the daggers piercing and sliding down as their eyes trace your body.
No feelings as they catcall out. No remorse.
I find a way to ignore the feeling because I love me.
I cast the daggers off.
No more telling me what I need to look like,
Behave, or say.
I have found my space in the world and it’s being me.
Have you found yours?

Yashaidy Salazar
Meridian High School
Courtney Murray – Teacher
We Are All Human

I eat, sleep, work, breathe, and feel just like everyone else, but why am I treated like some sort of mutant? Does not conforming to what society says I should do and be make me any less human? I work just as hard as everyone else, maybe a little harder, to survive and be happy. So what if I’m trans? That doesn’t mean I deserve to be treated like this! I’m still human.

Julia Sanchez
Mountain View High School
Kristin Galloway – Teacher
Unheard Of

you must be soft, sweet
you must be gentle and chaste
you are what it means to be a girl
you must be rough around the edges
you must be strong, loud
you can be what it means to be a boy
to be nothing is unheard of
what do you mean you are not confined by a gender?
pick one, you must be something

Hope Sedgwick
Idaho Arts Charter School
Brenda Paxton – Teacher
Stripped Down to Equality

Lipstick, heels, a ditsy brain
The stereotypes from which you’re chained.
Muscles, a jersey, and Nike shoes
Your confidence lowers if you lose.

Break the bond
Step out of the box
The lipstick, the jersey
Take it off.

The will to be happy
Is what you both got.
There should be no bias,
But it’s what we are taught.

Haily Shigeta
Fruitland High School
Kara Walton – Teacher
Real men don’t cry
At least, that’s what we’re told
So we bottle it up, away from judging eyes
They have words for those who can’t contain it
Words too harsh to be spoken aloud
Too often victims of our pride
And the cruel gaze of society
The time for hiding is done
The freedoms of emotion are universal
Let those words be spoken no more
Real men don’t cry

Zachary Schirado
Caldwell Senior High School
Jessica Wardell – Teacher
One Word

Cross your arms, they said.
Squeeze your legs together
Bow your head and
Fold into a tighter
Neater
Quieter girl.
Bite your tongue
Until your words are sweet and soft
Until your teeth lose the sharp.
And I crossed and I bowed and I folded
I swallowed my words.
Choked on them.
Until my hands formed to fists
And my voice shook
I said, “no.”

Madison Shumway
Highland High School
Glenda Funk – Teacher
In the New World

There is a girl who reads from a book in her lap.
What is hate? she thinks. She rolls the sound around in her mouth.
It is an ugly word, too short and too sharp. What is racism? What is
misogyny? The consonants feel heavy on her tongue.
The girl shuts the book. There is no use for those words here.

Madison Shumway
Highland High School
Glenda Funk – Teacher
It’s Our Time

I’m done being the girl in the back of the room. This is America supposedly the home of Freedom, yet I’VE NEVER felt so confined. I know people are with ME on this. Thousands maybe even millions. Let’s put OUR foot down! Sitting down to watch isn’t enough. let’s break our confines the government placed us in! WE want OUR rights now. Step back because the new generation is here!

Crystal Smith
Kuna High School
Sylvia Fine – Teacher
Disguise

Don’t believe you’ll ever succeed, you’re weak and that’s how it’s supposed to be. Don’t try to be rough, girls are known to cry; but make yourself flawless for all the guys. Your words should be filtered to fit with the rest; your quality; being judged by the best. Watch out little girl, you’re almost brain washed, sadly, you’ll never notice the cost. Open your eyes, you’re being hypnotized, by society all dressed in disguise.

Madison Smith
Soda Springs High School
Caitlin Pankau – Teacher
Grit and Gender: Inspired by Idaho’s history

They say I can’t succeed
They say I can’t win
They say I can’t achieve
WATCH ME
They say I’m not good enough
That I will never amount to anything
They say I can’t be independent
WATCH ME
Never listen to the disbelievers
Ignore the inadequate people
Take no part in the naive
Because grit is about the strength from your heart
The determination to never give up
The perseverance of a champ
WATCH ME

Shayla Spell
Mountain View High School
Kristin Galloway – Teacher
Guess Who

Cooking and cleaning, followed by laundry and sweeping;
a single parent strives to raise two spirited sons.
Making penny pinched decisions, offering a kind and caring hand.
The working hours defeat the body more than the debt.
Tucking us in for the night, reading a bedtime story
about a world where gender roles are no more.
However, if you’ve mistaken my father for a mother,
gender roles continue to carry on today.

Dean Spencer
Middleton High School
Melinda Garcia – Teacher
Voices

No.
Quit that.
Don’t.
Stop it.
Tasting these words creates an evolution.
My mind, once a circle, now a square.
They know what is best.
The authority.
Listen.
I have done that.
But why?
A heartbeat has its own rhythm.
I cannot be altered.
Let it pound with courage.
So, at the last day you can say
I did.
I am.
You can’t.

Kenadie Spencer
Mountain View High School
Kristin Galloway – Teacher
This Aqueous Society

An endless trickle.
Drop by drop.
Dress like this.
Talk like this.
Look like this.
Saturating us.
One by one.
Telling us who to be.
“She’s too butch.”
“He’s too weak.”
“She’s too prude.”

Ridiculed, because we don’t fit the mold.
Of this aqueous society.
No.
No more.
It will stop.
Because we will stand.
We will speak.
We will fight.

Pull the plug, dry in the sun,
And, someday. Be free.

Rebecca Stucki
Middleton High School
Melinda Garcia – Teacher
Art Room

Clay and paint line the walls in every shape and color,
Much like the people occupying the room.
This is where stereotypes aren’t enforced.
This has been a safe place for all of us,
Where judgment is nonexistent and
We can joke with no worry.
Where it doesn’t matter who you like
And we can all be ourselves.
If the world could be like this art room,
We’d all be better off.

Jamie Sugai
Kuna High School
Elizabeth Thompson – Teacher
Grits for Breakfast

– Gritty women eat the morning like it’s Christmas dinner because this only comes once a year and there’s no time for slim picking and calorie counting

– Gritty women search for misplaced victories while walking on tight ropes holding back to back double shifts in one hand and night school in the other just to balance everything out

– Gritty women attain calluses like they’re Boy Scout badges a flag of achievement every time she waves goodbye

Fatima Tall
Vallivue High School
Rachael Barr – Teacher
Oh What a World It Would Be

What a world it would be if only, if only.
If only we didn’t care about what others say we’re supposed to be.
If only we weren’t worried about being spotted with the wrong crowd.
If only we felt confident deviating from the well-worn paths forged by society.
If only we felt comfortable speaking the truth.
Oh, what a wonderful world it would be, if only.

Ibrahim Tall
Vallivue High School
Zachary Barclay – Teacher
One-Size-Fits-All

I do not fit one-size-fits-all,
because I am not all. I am one.
One of the individuals
in a group called everyone.

You gave me this dull, grey outfit.
to match everyone around me.
I am not myself, I will admit,
As if you were to set me free.

You wouldn’t write a history
without first knowing the real story.
Why then, do you write my story,
based on a pointless category.

Aubree Tanner
Vision Charter School
Becky Mitchell – Teacher
Down with Domination

I close my eyes and find
A chessboard, dark and light
All bow to the King,
But the King is not alone,
The board is made up, piece by piece
The pawn; the Knight; the Queen
All important roles they fill

Life is like a chessboard,
If you only utilize the King,
The game is over before it began.

Savannah Tanner
Vision Charter School
Rebecca Mitchell – Teacher
Winter in July

Resilient, I stand under the flickering streetlight. “What did you say?” He demanded his posture aggressive.
I square my own shoulders and give him my best fiery glare. Hot enough to start a wildfire.
“I said no.” The words sound crisp and cold, turning the air around us from summer to mid-November.
He faltered, his composure breaks.
I didn’t let him think. I turn and walk away. My pride is on display, winter in July.

Savannah Tanner
Vision Charter School
Rebecca Mitchell – Teacher
Revolution Yet to Begin

The hot breath of my voice--concealed by cold fingers.
Mentality of the herd.
Whispered words break through louder than I meant:
“What revolution?”

Your fingers tap label makers,
your ears are deaf to confuters.
Labels printed for every type, every kind.
Why create new species?
We are one race,
one sexuality,
one gender:
human.

Do not alienate us further.
Stop tapping,
Put your label maker away.
Listen…
Our revolution has yet to begin.

Raelynn Thompson
Middleton High School
Melinda Garcia – Teacher
Better Than Her

You judge her because she slept with one guy.
You praise him because he slept with five girls.

She’s a slut,
He’s a player.
She deserves to be harassed,
He deserves a medal.

It was her first time ever having sex, but she’s still a slut.
She was taken advantage of, but who cares?
He’s still better than her.

Why?

Danielle Troncale
Middleton High School
Mike Brown – Teacher
Contradictions and All

You demand solidity,
A rock unmovable and unshakable,
You demand leniency,
A piece of clay, moldable and malleable,

You require security,
A vault, guarded and cinched,
You require vulnerability,
An open book, unconcealed,

You need brutality,
A rogue, fresh from the fight,
You need compassion,
A healer, to hold you near,

It seems the man you need,
Is the man you make me to be,
I guess I can be these things,
Contradictions and all.

Chance Turner
Middleton High School
Melinda Garcia – Teacher
Two Mothers Expecting

Your rhythmic beat found, I can’t help but wonder,
Will other parents smile, but judge behind closed doors?
You are a child, not a statement
But is it fair, for our fight to be yours?
Perhaps play-dates won’t be permitted,
You come home bruised for defending your moms,
Would they call you science run amuck,
But as your face on the monitor becomes clear,
Hope that maybe, for both our sakes, you’ll change the world.

Chance Turner
Middleton High School
Melinda Garcia – Teacher
The Same

We all don’t think the same
We don’t all act the same
We all don’t have the same religion
And cultures
But we all are human
We’re the weakest species
Yet instead of helping one another,
We break one another.
In order to thrive, we must unite
Alone we’re one in a billion
But together we are an army.

Raul Villanueva
Wilder High School
Charles Abel – Teacher
I am good at math
Test scores show it time after time
Yet when I show you, you claim that I lie
Because girls aren’t smart at least you think so.

You won’t believe what you see
You say I copy and cheat
Because what’s between my thighs
Obviously determines how I think.

Can’t be smart you claim
My percents are in the highest range
So your words mean nothing to me
A smart girl.

Jaiden Wafwa
Vision Charter School
Rebecca Mitchell – Teacher
Realize What’s Real

I am not as strong as you,
I am not wise as you.

I am weak,
I am meek,
I am ignorant,
I am dependent.

Because I am a woman.
Or at least to you.

I am strong,
I am smart and wise.

I am no coward,
I am not silent,
I am not one who cries,
I am not dependent on you.

Because I am a woman,
Realize what is real.

Cally Walker
Ririe Junior Senior High School
Annette Morell – Teacher
To demonstrate grit, the first step is to not disrespect or belittle the opposite gender as revenge, but to train your mind. By embracing your worth and finding yourself beyond what society says you should be, you are coming to terms with your uniqueness. Once you’ve built a wall strong enough, no one can knock it down. Then, standing up for yourself will be automatic – you’ll realize what there is to stand up for.

Kaylan Watson
Timberlake High School
Katie Graupman – Teacher
//Truth//

A harsh truth to this world.
It lies.
“We are equal”
Why are there store ads that say you aren’t “cool” unless you shop there?
Why do people avoid other people who look different or ARE different?
They are afraid if the world is equal
They will lose their title.
They push others below them
to make themselves LOOK better.
And that’s another odd truth.
They fear equality

Kaetlyn Wesselman
Rocky Mountain High School
Lynn Fouts--Teacher
* Indicates Our Gender Revolution Award Winner

**Boise High School**  
*Boise*
Indigo Blauch-Chappell  
Linnea Boice*  
Dani Chandler-Haas  
Nia Chappell  
Therese Etoka  
Trinity Hobdey  
Elizabeth Lee*  
Laura Pape

**Burley High School**  
*Burley*
Lauren Cummins  
Charlotte Nyblade

**Caldwell Senior High School**  
*Caldwell*
Zachary Shirado

**Centennial High School**  
*Boise*
Alexa Glick

**Compass Academy**  
*Idaho Falls*
Hannah Maynes

**Compass Honors High School**  
*Meridian*
Reagen Frost

**Fruitland High School**  
*Fruitland*
Karissa Carter  
Braden Christensen*  
Sabrina Moore  
Haily Shigeta

**Gem State Academy**  
*Caldwell*
Hannah Miller

**Gem State Adventist Academy**  
*Caldwell*
Emma Fresk  
Alexis Lawson  
Kristina Morrison  
Victoria Pahler*

**Grangeville High School**  
*Grangeville*
Kayla Creutzberg  
Katrina Frei  
Rachel Kelley  
Emily Kernutt  
Matt Payne  
Alexia Rose
Highland High School
Pocatello
Madison Shumway

Idaho Arts Charter School
Nampa
Hope Sedgwick

Juniper Hills High School
Lewiston
Austin Burtness

Kuna High School
Kuna
Chloe Glass
Crystal Smith
Jamie Sugai

Mackay Junior/Senior High School
Mackay
Sabree Herrera

Melba High School
Melba
Aundrea Dickard

Meridian High School
Meridian
Carolyne Ramirez
Yashaidy Salazar

Middleton High School
Middleton
Abbigail Brown
Rebecca Carriere
Tairex Clayton*
Markel Ellsworth
Kayla Fitch
Emilie Grow
Patrick Larimer
Rosana Lenhart
Cassidy Nelson*
Jayde Nielson
Haylie Parker
Kamri Peterson
Mackenzie Royce
Tanner Rydalch
Dean Spencer
Rebecca Stucki
Raelynn Thompson
Danielle Troncale
Chance Turner
Mountain View High School
Meridian
Adriana Bryant
Alison Chanhtala
Brooklynn Jarvis
Megan Lawton
Brooklyn Ruwe
Julia Sanchez
Shayla Spell
Kenadie Spencer

Nampa High School
Nampa
Marisa Gonzalez-Mabutt*

Raft River High School
Malta
Justice Dalton

Ririe Junior/Senior High School
Idaho Falls
Tayann Jorgensen
Cally Walker

Rocky Mountain High School
Meridian
Kaetlyn Wesselman

Sage International School of Boise
Boise
Chase Robinson

Soda Springs High School
Soda Springs
Katie Camp
Cheyenne Daniels
Torri Peck
Madison Smith

Timberlake High School
Spirit Lake
Kaylan Watson

Timberline High School
Boise
Anna Gable*
Kade Olsen*
Alyssa Peters

Vallivue High School
Caldwell
Candida Eldridge
Chayce Reynolds*
Fatima Tall*
Ibrahim Tall
Vision Charter School
Caldwell
Ryska Baird
Sierra Caudill
Makenna Doramus
Kylia Heaps
Hannah Martinez*
Trew Mittleider
Aubree Tanner
Savannah Tanner
Jaiden Wafwa

Wilder High School
Wilder
Consuelo Alvarado
Thalia Guajardo
Dulce Monter Lopez
Raul Villanueva

Xavier Charter School
Twin Falls
Madison Heil

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For more information contact the Idaho Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence 208-384-0419 or 1-888-293-6118
Are there unhealthy behaviors in your relationship?

- Calls or texts too much
- Ignores your opinion
- Has trust issues (constantly checking your emails, texts, or wanting to know where you are)
- Ignores your need to spend time with your friends and family or doesn’t give you “alone” time
- Focuses on the relationship lasting forever
- Thinking you can change your partner
- Lots of relationship drama (the silent treatment, lying, cheating, jealousy)
- Other behaviors you are concerned about and not sure if they are unhealthy? Chances are if it doesn’t feel right to you, it’s not healthy.
- If you have recognized any of these behaviors, think about whether you should stay in this relationship.

Are there abusive behaviors in your relationship?

- Does not respect your decisions
- Keeps you away from friends or family
- Obsesses with knowing what you are doing
- Puts you down, humiliates or demeans you
- Pressures you to use alcohol or drugs or have sex
- Acts mean or gets angry quickly
Be Afraid
“Get back in the kitchen.
Go make me a sandwich”
No.
I see your sexist comments for what they are;
A defense mechanism
Activated whenever you sense a threat
To your fragile male ego.
You feel threatened?
Good.
Cause I will crush the patriarchy
Underneath my ballet flats with bows,
And I will tear down gender roles
With brightly painted nails.
So go ahead,
Tell me to make a sandwich.
I’ll make history instead.

Linnea Boice
Boise High School – 10th grade
Cindy Hartley – Teacher

• You are fearful you will make your partner mad
• Follows you or shows up uninvited all the time
• Threatens suicide or threatens to hurt themselves, you, or someone you care about
• Hitting, slapping, shoving and other ways of physically hurting you
• Refuses to believe the relationship is over
• Treats you badly, promises to change, then never does
• Are there other behaviors you are miserable or concerned about and not sure if they are abusive? Chances are if it doesn’t feel right to you, it’s not healthy.

Where to get help
If someone is in immediate danger, call 911. If you or a friend might be in an abusive relationship, talk to a parent/caregiver, a school counselor, or another adult you trust, or a local domestic or sexual violence program. Or call a hotline:

National Dating Abuse Helpline
1-866-331-9474 or www.loveisrespect.org to chat online

National Suicide Hotline 1-800-273-TALK (8255)

National Sexual Assault Hotline
1-833-656-HOPE (4673) or www.rainn.org to chat online