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Controversy Over The Slut Walk Movement

Choosing feminist views on the “Slut Walk” as my topic for this research paper was very difficult for me. There were numerous articles I’ve read to this day that sparked an interest in me. I find it hard to believe I am the only person who has been stumped by this movement, but considering my questioning nature I found myself struggling. One day I remember specifically in my English Composition course, my professor had the class watch a video called “Potty-Mouthed Princesses Drop F-Bombs”. At first I was shocked watching young girls younger than eleven years old using that type of language. My professor asked the entire class what we all thought about the video. Of course everyone was surprised, but one student’s comments made me livid. He mostly stated that it was a terrible video, and he thinks it was a terrible way of showing feminism. After I showed it to my family and friends when I returned home, I realized how great this video really is. This video led to my interest to find a movement called “Slut Walk”. So now I find myself wondering, how would feminists view this type of a movement?

There are plenty of methods I will use to gather information for this research paper. So far I have looked up first, what really is Feminism? That question is a paper in itself, considering there are numerous definitions, viewpoints, and thoughts. Also I read numerous articles pertaining to the “Slut Walk” and feminist may view this controversial movement. Lastly I will ask my friends and family their opinion on this topic as well.

The main place I searched for information for this research paper was of course the Internet. First I started by using Google and simply typing in “How do Feminist view the “Slut Walk”? The number of articles that came up were amazing. I proceeded to write down any quotes I found pertaining to the movement by feminist, or just anyone who has an opinion on this topic. I have about two pages full just of quotes I found. Then I narrowed the articles down to how Feminist in particular viewed the “Slut Walk”. Also while in class, I had asked a few other students what they thought about the “Slut Walk”, the name, and everything that it symbolized. I didn’t find this method to be too successful because first, not many of the students knew what the movement was. Secondly, considering I had to explain it to them myself, I felt like I unknowingly put my own thoughts into their head which lead to them saying they felt the same way I did. Lastly, after watching “Potty-Mouthed Princesses Drop F-Bombs” I decided to post on my Weebly account about the “Slut Walk” in particular. I had received a comment on this post from someone in my class saying “I wonder if this name caused any issues for certain people. I think it would be good to go into more detail about this in your essay”. And there it was, my final push to decide on my topic that I feel so strongly about.

Feminism is defined by organized activity in support of women’s rights and interests "Feminism." *Merriam-Webster.com*. Merriam-Webster, n.d. Web. 3 Dec. 2014. <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/feminism>. Feminist Anita Sarkeesian writes that Slut Walk is defined as a movement to end slut-shaming and victim blaming. Her article, “Feminist Frequency” stated, “Slut Walk has become a mini movement that was originally conceived in Toronto in response to a police officer who claimed that women should stop dressing like sluts to avoid assult.” (Sarkeesian, 2011)

When I first read this statement, I was completely disgusted. To think that someone who is supposed to be protecting you from harm would say something so disrespectful is quite disturbing. And the fact that this officer put all women in one category being, “sluts” is wrong. I can see why the movement was created out of this action, and it’s upsetting that someone that is thought of so highly saying this, is what pushed the “Slut Walk” to be created.

Anita Sarkeesian also writes, “I have been quite vocal in my little internet space about my strong dislike for SlutWalk, for the name and for the unstrategic organizing which sadly, seems to ignores the systemic and institutional issues of rape culture, victim blaming and well, radical feminism” (Sarkeesian, 2011)

When I first heard of Slut Walk, the name of the movement was the first thing I questioned. Why would the girls whom are sadly a part of the rape statistics, call themselves sluts? Feminist Sarkeesian stating that she dislikes the name of this movement in general, shows me that this derogatory term caught her eye and thus furthered her input. I feel that this is exactly what the organizers of this movement were pushing for. Feminist giving their point of view brings this topic of rape and blaming to much needed light.

"Feminism." *Merriam-Webster.com*. Merriam-Webster, n.d. Web. 3 Dec. 2014. <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/feminism>.

Sarkeesian, Anita, and Jonathan McIntosh. "Link Round Up: Feminist Critiques Of Slut Walk." *Feminist Frequency*. N.p., 16 May 2011. Web. 2 Dec. 2014.