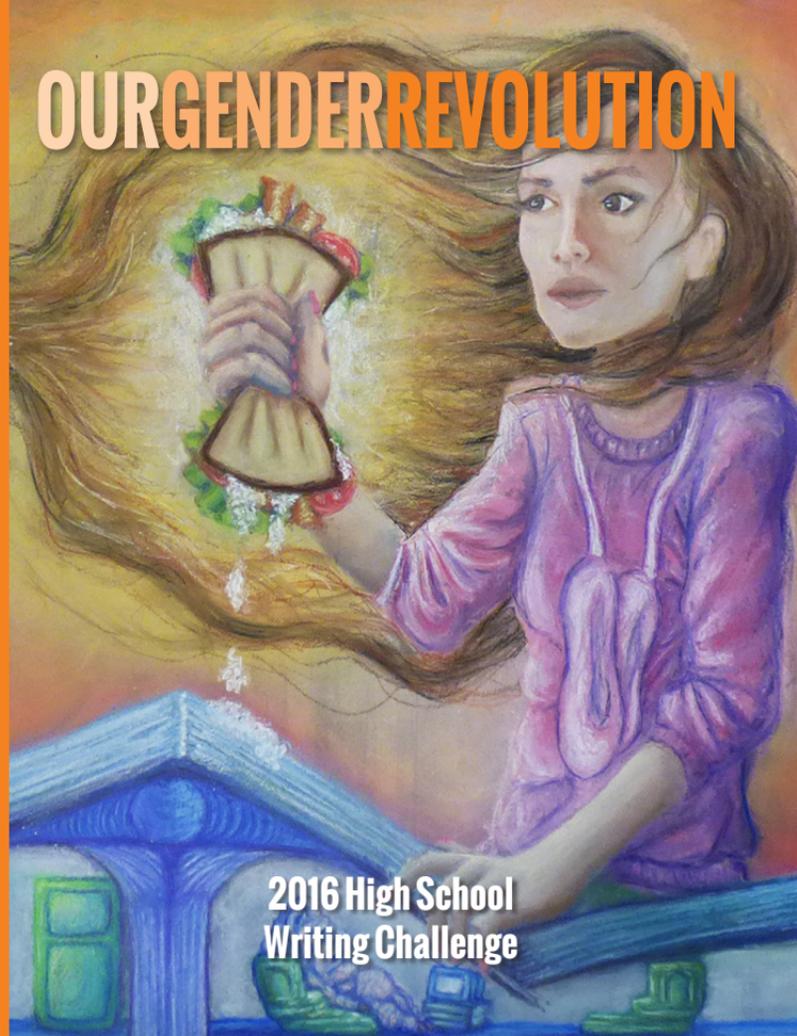


# OURGENDERREVOLUTION

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[www.ourgenderrevolution.org](http://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

**OURGENDERREVOLUTION**

[www.ourgenderrevolution.org](http://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](http://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](http://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*

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*

**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*

## *Our Gender Revolution Award Winner*

### **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**

Pound. Crackle. Pound.

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,  
nor by their visual image  
or gender.

Each and every person  
is part of one

beautiful masterpiece  
called mankind.

An unbroken world  
is one that doesn't

judge by male or female.

A repaired world

is one that accepts  
a person for their heart

and personality rather than  
their physical appearance.

A world that seems

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,  
Filly 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 Yousafzai 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 Hobdley

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 Chanhthala  
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

This document was developed under grant number 2012-WR-AX-0009 from the Office on Violence Against Women of the U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions and views expressed are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice.

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](http://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](http://www.rainn.org) to chat online

*Cover art inspired by “Be Afraid”*

*Boise High School – Artists: Lee Sullivan, Luan Teed, Kari Wagenman and Gina Werdel;*

*Teacher: Katy Shanafelt*