

## The Voices of American Women

Too often we fail to realize that we can learn much about American history and culture simply by speaking with those around us. The goal of this assignment is to explore the changing role of women in our society by conducting in-depth interviews with older women (i.e., a grandmother, aunt, mother, or older family friend – *at least* 45 years old) who have witnessed and experienced these changes first hand. The global question we'll be examining is:

**How have the lives of American women and the roles they play in society changed in recent times?**

The requirements are as follows:

1. Select an appropriate interviewee. This should be someone who you can meet with *in person* and who is willing to give you 45 to 60 minutes of her time.
2. In advance, prepare a list of 10 provocative interview questions.
3. Conduct a personal interview taking careful notes of what you observe and discuss.
4. Write a 2 page (typed) reflection paper discussing the highlights of your interview. Your paper should summarize the most significant topics you explored and contain specific quotations and/or personal anecdotes provided during your interview. Exemplary papers will synthesize key findings and analyze how the interview helped you better understand the changing roles of American women.
5. You may explore any issues which relate to the global question; some of the topics you may wish to consider are:

** Employment	** Housework & Childrearing	** Dating & Relationships
** Politics	** Sexual Harassment	** Marriage & Divorce
** Fashion & Style	** Societal Expectations	** Men's Roles
** Life Obstacles	** Goals, Hopes & Aspirations	** Feminism

**Deadlines: 1. Identify interviewee and write 10 interview questions: Wednesday, Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>**

**2. Final draft of Reflection Paper: Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup>**