

Unit and Lesson Context

- This is Lesson 17: Public Figures and Feminism from Introduction Rhetoric and Composition, Unit 2.
- This lesson is part of a unit around the theme of “Gender Roles and Equality.” During this unit, students will read *We Should All Be Feminists* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, an extended essay that defines feminism and builds an argument in favor of gender equality. The unit also supplements with several short, nonfiction selections that explore, perspectives on gender equality, the dynamics of gender roles and their impact on different genders, criticisms of the present feminist movement.
- The purpose of this lesson is to build specific skills in analyzing arguments while developing a deep understanding of the argument made in the essay to add to their understanding of the variety of nuanced arguments around gender roles and equality.

Unit Plan Daily Details

Lesson 17: Public Figures and Feminism	
What	
Standards: <i>What knowledge and/or skills are students working towards?</i>	Daily Objectives: <i>What will students do today?</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IRC R1.A: Identify and describe components of the rhetorical situation: the exigence, audience, writer, purpose, context, and message. IRC R7.A: Explain how word choice, comparisons, and syntax contribute to the specific tone of style of a text. IRC R7.B Explain how writers create, combine, and place independent and dependent clauses to show relationships between and among ideas. IRC R7.C Explain how grammar and mechanics contribute to the clarity and effectiveness of an argument. 	SWBAT analyze tone through diction and syntax. SWBAT determine how Trudeau makes his argument. SWBAT complete the rhetorical situation graphic for Trudeau’s speech.
Key Points: <i>What will students know today?</i>	
What Key Points	
Task <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyze: to uncover the nature and relationship of the parts of a text through close and careful examination Determine: to decide something especially because of evidence or facts Complete: to finish making or doing; to bring (something) to an end or to a finished state 	Knowledge <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tone: the author’s attitude towards the subject The rhetorical situation is the context surrounding a piece of rhetoric. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exigence: an issue, problem, or situation that causes or prompts someone to write or speak Writer: someone who uses communication for a particular purpose Audience: the intended reader/listener for a piece of writing Context: the social and political climate at the time of the publication <u>and</u> the major historical events or movements leading up to that era Message: the idea that the writer is attempting to convey to the audience Purpose: (Author’s): what the writer intends the audience to know or do
How Key Points	
Analyze the rhetorical situation (R)	

1. Carefully examine the background information in the prompt and
 - a. find the date of publication and the genre.
 - b. jot down notes about what you know about the time period, writer, and the genre
 - c. if possible, write a few words describing the broader issue and specific situation the writer is addressing
2. As you read the text,
 - a. find more information about the broader issue and specific situation the writer is addressing
 - b. look for clues about who the writer is talking to. Consider who would be interested in or moved by the text.
3. After reading the text,
 - a. In one sentence, summarize the writer's main idea (aka central argument).
 - b. Describe what the writer wants the audience to know and/or do.

OUTPUT: ET: SPACECAT w/Thesis

How

For This Lesson...

TEACHER PREP:

- Read over the photojournalism piece [“What Young Women Think in 2020”](#).
- Complete and annotate the lesson handout as a teacher guide

MATERIALS

- **OneNote:** L17: Public Figures and Feminism

TEXT: “Why I’m Raising My Kids to be Feminists” by Justin Trudeau

How does gender inequality affect different genders?

PRE (20)

- **DO FIRST (10)**
 - Have students scroll through this photojournalism piece on [“What Young Women Think in 2020”](#). Direct their attention to Bláithín’s comment on what feminism means.
 - Students will complete the exploration activity and teachers can select students to share out about something that stood out to them.
- Present lesson objectives and establish lesson’s purpose
- Present key points and criteria for success in annotating for tone through connotative diction and syntax.
- Students can independently read the pre reading (very short paragraph)

DURING (45)

- Provide context for the article “Why I’m Raising My Kids to be Feminists”
- Model think-aloud identification of connotative diction that suggest tone in the first paragraph (i.e. proud, dedicated, astonishing, and humbling opportunity).
- Have students refer to the emoji tone chart (or some other short tone word list) and determine tone. • Students complete the phrase, “Trudeau’s use of the words ____, ____, and ____ suggest _____. This creates a _____ tone.”
- Continue reading the article, noting where the writer uses connotative diction, parenthesis, and dashes.
- Pose questions and write responses on the board:
 - What is Trudeau’s argument about gender inequality?
 - How does he feel about it?
 - How do you know?
 - What phrases or punctuation (rhetorical strategies) led you to that conclusion?

POST (30)

- Students complete a rhetorical situation worksheet to determine Trudeau’s rhetorical goals for the article. Then write a thesis statement.

Student Facing Materials

Unit 2 L17 Public Figures and Feminism



Today we will...
Analyze tone through diction and syntax
Determine how Trudeau makes his argument
Analyze the rhetorical situation

PRE

20 mins

“Achieving gender equality requires the engagement of women and men, girls and boys. It is everyone’s responsibility.” – Ban Ki-moon, South Korean politician

Warm Up

Scroll through this photojournalism piece on [“What Young Women Think in 2020”](#). Pay special attention to Bláithín’s comment on what feminism means.

What stood out to you?

Pre-Reading

Justin Trudeau is the Prime Minister of Canada. He is the elected leader of the nation, like a president, but without the 4-year term limit. A prime minister can stay in office until the Queen/King dismisses them, they resign, or pass away. Trudeau is considered a progressive, or liberal, political leader.



Guiding Question: How does gender inequality affect different genders?



Key Points

Analyze tone

- Identify the subject of the passage
- Look for a pattern of diction, imagery, details, or figurative language
- Identify the overall connotation as +, -, N
- Consider the context of the quote or section
- Consider the speaker
- Determine attitude or tone towards subject

Guided Practice: Close Reading of “Why I’m Raising My Kids to be Feminists”

Why I'm Raising My Kids to Be Feminists

In an exclusive essay for MarieClaire.com, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau opens up about wanting his sons to “escape the pressure to be a particular kind of masculine that is so damaging to men and to the people around them.”

by [Justin Trudeau](#)

Oct 11, 2017

I am in politics because every day, I get to work to make the world a little better—for my kids, and for yours. I’m proud of the dedicated work our team is doing to make Canada more open, more inclusive, more just—and gender equal. But some of the most important work I do is not as a political leader, but as a parent. Every day, at home, I have the astonishing and humbling opportunity—together with my wife Sophie—to nurture empathy, compassion, self-love, and a keen sense of justice in our three kids.

- Using your emoji tone chart, choose 2 tone words that describe Trudeau’s attitude about his role as a parent.

I am so exceptionally proud of my daughter Ella-Grace. She’s growing up kind, super-smart, a passionate debater, open to the world around her. I love Ella, and I worry—because as a father, son, husband, and citizen, I witness the unequal obstacles women and girls face every day. It’s 2017, yet in Canada and around the world, women and girls still face violence, discrimination, stereotypes that limit them, and unequal opportunities that keep them from achieving their dreams. It is maddening to me that my brilliant, compassionate daughter will grow up in a world where, despite everything she is as a person, there will still be people who won’t take her voice seriously, who will write her off—simply because of her gender.

I can—and do—work every day to shift those inequalities, even incrementally. But I also know that the most powerful medicine will come from Ella herself. Sophie and I can’t be there with Ella at every hard moment of her life—to protect her when someone makes her feel small, to advocate for her when someone isn’t listening—even if we wish we could. (Parents will relate.) So the best thing we can do is to help Ella learn, unshakably, that she is enough, exactly as she is. That she has immense power, and intrinsic worth, which no one can ever take away from her. That she has a strong voice, which she can use, and trust. That means raising her feminist. Full stop.

- Fill in the following statement. The finished product is an example of how to analyze tone through diction.

Trudeau’s use of the words “___”, “___”, and “___” suggest _____. This creates a _____ tone.

I’m eternally lucky to have an amazing partner in that project. Sophie continues to inspire and challenge me, and a few years ago, she helped me reach a turning point. I was talking about teaching Ella that she can be anything she wants to be. Sophie said, “That’s great—but how are you raising your sons to be strong advocates for women and girls, too?”

Gender equality is not only an issue for women and girls. All of us benefit when women and girls have the same opportunities as men and boys—and it's on all of us to make that a reality. Our sons have the power and the responsibility to change our culture of sexism, and I want Xavier and Hadrien—when he's a little older—to understand that deeply. But I want, too, to help them grow into empathetic young people and adults, strong allies who walk through the world with openness, love, and a fierce attachment to justice. I want my sons to escape the pressure to be a particular kind of masculine that is so damaging to men and to the people around them. I want them to be comfortable being themselves and being feminists—who stand up for what's right, and who can look themselves in the eye with pride.

Feminism is not just the belief that men and women are equal. It's the knowledge that when we are all equal, all of us are more free. It's a relentless commitment to look for ourselves in each other, because that's how we start to build a world where everyone is treated with respect and recognition. And it's the unwavering conviction that all people have the same rights and freedoms—that my rights are your rights, and it is only when your rights are fully protected that mine are, too.

That world doesn't exist yet. But it can be built—by people who have a strong sense of justice and empathy, who stand up for the rights of others, and who seek out their own unique ways of creating more inclusive communities.

That's the world we want to live in. That's the world we want our kids to live in. To raise our kids feminist is to recognize that they ALL have a part to play to build that world. To raise our kids feminist is to honor their future, because they have the responsibility—and the power—to shape it for the better.

3. Note where Trudeau uses dashes to indicate parenthetical remarks (personal thoughts or important clarifications that interrupt a sentence).
 - a. **Highlight** at least two places where he does this
 - b. What do those examples do for the audience?

Independent Practice

Imagine that you are going to write an untimed analysis essay. You're not going to actually write it, just fill out a rhetorical situation chart and write a thesis statement

Here's the prompt: **Analyze the rhetorical choices Trudeau uses to make their argument about the impact of gender inequality.**

Let's break down this prompt:

- What *is* Trudeau's argument about gender inequality?
- How does he feel about it?
- How do you know? (what phrases or punctuation choices led you to that conclusion?)






















A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the student to write their analysis of Trudeau's rhetorical choices regarding gender inequality. The box occupies the majority of the lower half of the page.

Exit Ticket: SPACECAT w/Thesis

S peaker	What do we know about Trudeau? write here
P urpose	What does Trudeau want the audience to do and feel? write here
A udience	Who is Trudeau's message for? write here
C ontext	What's going on today or in history that is relevant to this topic? write here
E xigence	Why is Trudeau motivated to speak about this? write here
C hoices (identify 2)	What rhetorical or syntactical choices does he make?
A ppeals	What appeal do these choices create and <i>how</i> ? write here
T one (identify 2)	Trudeau sounds ____ and ____ write here

Write a thesis statement that responds to the prompt: **Analyze the rhetorical choices Trudeau uses to make their argument about the impact of gender inequality.**

Emoji Tone Chart

Mood (Emotion) Words makes the audience feel...	Tone Words (author's attitude)
Startled Shocked 	Sarcastic Cynical 
Sentimental Contemplative Wistful 	Lighthearted Amused 
Empowered Enlightened 	Reassuring Optimistic 
Remorse Guilt 	Sentimental Nostalgic 
Empathy Sympathy 	Stern Scornful 
Awe Wonder 	Arrogant Moralistic 
Grief Distress Concern  	Flippant Glib 
Aggravated Incensed 	Candid Resigned Passive 
Cheerful Hopeful 	Incisive Authoritative 
Sober Solemn 	Passionate Urgent 
	Serious Mournful 