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Women vs Women
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At this point, feminism feels like a bad word in my household. "I feel ashamed to be a woman because of them. They prance around half naked like hookers, yet demand respect at the same time? They're a joke." This was said by my grandma. At first I didn't say anything back, keeping my mouth shut like I always had. I learned that what I said didn't matter unless I was either an adult or a boy. I tolerated comments like "don't spit, boys want girls who are ladylike" while my teenage uncles sat in the backyard and did the same thing. I was constantly told to stop dressing like a boy, yet would receive dirty looks when adjusting my bra strap in public. "Don't do that where everyone can see you." It got to a point where I genuinely felt like the most important thing was looking pretty, but not TOO pretty or else they may get the wrong idea.

There's so much talk about respecting the man of the house for what he does for us, but no talk about the respect he should give in return. He's allowed to come home making demands, expecting everything to be put in front of him on a silver platter, but we aren't allowed to ask that he at least says please. There has even been a time he's expected a friend of mine to cook him food, and even had the nerve to complain about how long she was taking.

Now that I'm older, things have changed. I took time to research feminism and the actual message behind the movement, and quickly realized all of the flaws in my family dynamic. The more I learned, the bolder I got. My newfound knowledge of the women's rights movement was mostly a blessing, but partially a curse. I became less submissive and more vocal about my opinions. I learned to stick up for myself for the first time. I could no longer stand hearing my grandma, a woman, putting me and other women down for doing what makes them happy and

fighting for what is right. In fact, I don't think anyone in my family has put other women down more than she has.

I feel like so much has been done and is continuing to be done to get us closer to equality, however one of the biggest issues we still have is rarely talked about. This issue is division amongst women. To my grandma, every feminist is an extremist who's just out to attack powerful men. The fact someone who I would consider a strong woman to be against so many other strong women not only baffles, but it's also incredibly disheartening. Feminism has always been about being socially and economically equal to men, but now I feel it's evolved into the women's right to choose. If you want to focus on your career and not have a family, that's okay. If you want to be a stay at home mom and have four kids, that's also okay. For so many years women have lived as if we're in competition with one another, instead of trying to build each other up instead. It's become a culture of comparing ourselves to one another and shaming other women for living their life how they choose to. Feminism has made me a stronger woman and has helped me see my true potential, and can do the same thing for so many more women everywhere. However, we need to strive for more unity and understanding for the world to truly be a better place.

I wholeheartedly believe that the future of feminism is bright, so long as we work together to get the movement to where it needs to be. Not only do we need more unification here in the United States, but on a global scale as well. Since this movement has been so prevalent during the last century or so, we've been able to come a long way in the U.S. Other less developed countries, however, haven't fared so well. If we keep moving forward and working to better ourselves along the way, great things can and will be achieved.