



Exemplar for Internal Achievement Standard

Social Studies Level 3

This exemplar supports assessment against:

Achievement Standard 91597

Conduct a critical social inquiry

An annotated exemplar is a sample of student evidence, with a commentary, to explain key aspects of the standard. It assists teachers to make assessment judgements at the grade.

New Zealand Qualifications Authority

To support internal assessment

Grade: Achieved

For Achieved, the student needs to conduct a critical social inquiry.

This involves deciding on a focus for the inquiry, developing research questions, and gathering information and background ideas. There must be an explanation of people's points of view, values, and perspectives that underpin actions in society related to the inquiry focus. Additionally, students must evaluate the processes of social inquiry in relation to the findings, including making suggestions for improvement.

Appropriate focus questions have been developed to ensure that gathering information and background ideas supports the student in discussing people's viewpoints, perspectives, and values, and how these underpin actions taken in relation to the issue. Listing four possible sources, introducing the topic through an extended paragraph, and footnoting sources throughout the response shows clear evidence that information and background ideas were gathered.

When answering the focus questions, the student has clearly identified two perspectives (traditionalism and social justice) and articulated the values and viewpoints commonly held by people that align with these perspectives. The explained viewpoints are supported by relevant quotations. A clear connection is made between the perspectives, values, and viewpoints and the specific individuals and groups selected, and it is through making the clear connection between these three elements that the threshold for "explained" has been met.

When reporting on the second focus question, the student has identified two people that align with the perspectives and viewpoints discussed earlier. This has supported them in ensuring that there is alignment between the individuals, their actions, and the perspectives, viewpoints, and values, thereby demonstrating how these have underpinned the actions taken and meeting the criterion fully.

The final section addresses the evaluation criterion by considering how the inquiry process influenced aspects of the findings. The student evaluates their sources for bias, accuracy, and relevance, and broadly reflects on how these factors may have shaped the conclusions. They also note that limited access to sources constrained the overall discussion of the issue and suggest that using longer-form sources could have provided greater depth in the report. The inclusion of specific details and examples demonstrates what is expected for this criterion at curriculum level 8.

To reach Merit, further development of the section comparing the perspectives, values, and viewpoints would be required. Identifying that both perspectives value safety begins to meet the criteria. Building on this by considering where they diverge, why, and how this has shaped the different responses could have allowed for a Merit judgement overall.

Inquiry Focus: “Bathroom Debate”**Focus Questions:**

- 1) What are different views, values and perspectives on transgender peoples access to bathrooms?
- 2) What actions have people taken in response to transgender peoples access to bathrooms and how do these actions reflect their views, values, and perspectives?

Possible Sources:

- Politico: Obama administration releases directive on transgender rights to school bathrooms, <https://www.politico.com/story/2016/05/obama-administration-title-ix-transgender-student-rights-223149#:~:text=The%20Obama%20administration%20Friday%20morning,align%20with%20their%20gender%20identity.>
- GenderGP: The Nonsense and Dangers of the Transphobic ‘Bathroom Debate’: <https://www.gendergp.com/transgender-bathrooms-discrimination-2022/#:~:text=This%20is%20not%20some%20abstract,places%20of%20safety%20and%20security.>
- The Washington Post: Trans women should be arrested over bathroom use, N.C. gubernatorial candidate says <https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2024/02/12/north-carolina-governors-race-transgender-bathroom/>
- NPR Politics: Ex-N.C. Gov. Pat McCrory Offers His Take On Transgender Rights, <https://www.npr.org/2017/02/27/517458876/ex-n-c-gov-pat-mccrory-offers-his-take-on-transgender-rights>

Background Information:

My inquiry topic is transgender peoples access to public bathrooms. The issue of transgender individuals access to public bathrooms that align with their gender identity has become a significant point of contention within transgender rights. This topic highlights fundamental issues within society on how we recognize gender identity and segregation of sexes in public spaces. The main arguments surrounding transgender bathroom rights are if transgender individuals should be legally allowed to enter and use public bathrooms that align with their gender identity. Gender identity is a term that describes a person’s innate sense of their gender. It is often argued if gender identity is separate from sex, the male and female categories determined by sex chromosomes. “Bathroom bills” “Transgender bathroom bills” or “Bathroom access bills” started being implemented in America in the 2010s. These bills were a variation of preventing transgender people from accessing bathrooms if they did not align with their sex, such as the Public Facilities Privacy & Security Act, or HB2 passed by North Carolina governor, Pat McCrory. These bills would force transgender people to use the bathroom correlating with their sex at birth or to use gender neutral facilities. This became an issue of discrimination against transgender people, especially students who needed to use the bathroom at schools which were typically state funded.

Focus Question 1: What are different views, values and perspectives on transgender peoples access to bathrooms?

Social Justice

An ideology that is common in the differing opinions on the transgender bathroom issue is social justice. Social justice is an ideology aimed at creating a fair and equal society where all individuals have equal access to opportunity, resources and rights regardless of ones background or identity. Major principles of social justice is to acknowledge system injustices within society and to undo them to support minorities and accommodate individuals needs within a society through equity and equality. Social justice is a key ideology when analysing the perspectives within the transgender bathroom issue. For example, the value of equality is directly relevant to ensuring transgender people have access to public bathrooms that align with their gender identity in the same way that cisgender people do. This would address and acknowledge the unique issues transgender people face in society and call to make change so transgender people can feel safe in society.

A 2022 article published by GenderGP argues that denying transgender people access to public bathrooms that align with their gender identity is discrimination and hateful. The author, whose name is just cited as 'GenderGP', highlights the safety and health concerns transgender people face when having to use bathrooms that align with their sex. The article states *"Accessing safe public bathrooms is a health and well-being issue, and a human right. Using the toilet is an essential health need. The narrative that self-identification will compromise cis people's safety is dangerous, particularly affecting trans women and girls."* This quote indicates a social justice ideology because it makes the claim that all humans should have the right to access safe public bathrooms. It also highlights how specifically transgender women and girls are negatively affected and in danger by the notion that self identification or using the womans bathroom is a danger to cisgender women. By acknowledging the challenges a minority community face within a society and calling out the injustices they face, GenderGP demonstrates they value safety, equality in society, access to public facilities for all and human rights. These values link directly to social justice by acknowledging the discrimination a minority faces in society.

Traditionalism

An ideology that contrasts with social justice that is relevant to the transgender bathroom issue is traditionalism. Traditionalism is an ideology that prioritises the value of maintaining established social practices, roles, customs and institutions within a society. For example, the nuclear family, gender roles, local community, and authority. It advocates for the preservation of cultural norms that have been held in a society for many generations and views them as essential to the function and order of a stable society. Traditionalists often resist change in society they see as disrupting the established order. In the context of the transgender bathroom access issue, traditionalism plays a significant role in shaping opposition to allowing transgender people to access public bathrooms that align with their gender identity. There is a fundamental difference in how traditionalists view gender compared to queer theory, as fixed at birth with ones sex. This aligns with the traditional idea that there are expected gender roles a male and female should uphold in a society. By changing the traditional idea of separating bathroom facilities by gender to accommodate a

minority group, a traditionalist would view this as disruption of a broader social framework of how a healthy society operates.

A 2024 Washington post article reports on a North Carolina lieutenant governor and leading candidate in the 2024 gubernatorial election, Mark Robinson's comments on the transgender bathroom access issue. The Author, Jonathan Edwards, references Robinson claiming transgender people using the women's bathroom is a danger to women and how he wants men claiming to be women in the women's bathroom to be arrested. Edwards quotes Robinson from a video of him at a campaign saying *"if you are confused [about which bathroom to use], find a corner outside somewhere. I'm sorry, we're not tearing society down because of this."* This indicates a traditionalist ideology because he is saying that a person not using the bathroom that aligns with their sex (transgender people) is confused and that they should not use any bathroom facility at all because allowing them would tear down society. This clearly demonstrates that Robinson believes not upholding traditional gender roles and societal norms is a threat to the order of society. He also uses language that rejects the existence of transgender people and just describes them as confused people. This aligns with the traditional idea that gender is fixed at birth with sex. Values this demonstrates are traditional gender roles, preserving societal order based on established norms and values, binary definitions on sex which links to the traditionalist ideology.

Focus Question 2: What actions have people taken in response to transgender peoples access to bathrooms and how do these actions reflect their views, values, and perspectives?

Pat McCrory

Pat McCrory was the former governor of North Carolina between 2013 - 2017. McCrory was a republican who gained national attention for his stance on the issue of transgender bathroom access during his tenure. In response to the issue, McCrory signed 'HB2' or the Public Facilities Privacy & Security Act into law in 2016. The North Carolina statute compelled schools, state and local government facilities with single-gender bathrooms to only allow people of the corresponding sex as listed on their birth certificate to use them. It also amended state law to preempt any anti-discrimination ordinances passed by local communities. McCrory publicly defended HB2 which he further explains in an interview with Rachel Martin, David Greene and Steve Inskee published by npr.org. In the interview McCrory is quoted saying *"we're changing the basic values that we've used in our schools for decades and decades. This is a major change in culture norms that, again, I disagree with the Civil Rights Division of the Obama administration."* This quote shows McCrory emphasises the importance of maintaining longstanding values and norms relating to gender segregated spaces in schools. This reflects a traditional viewpoint that prioritises continuity of cultural norms. McCrory took action through signing off a legislation that would force people to only use bathroom facilities that aligned with their sex and publicly supporting and defending it and discourse surrounding the issue. This action reflects values of a traditional ideology. By signing in a law that legally prevents people from using a bathroom that does not align with their gender identity but their sex, it targets transgender people. By using authoritarian force to prevent transgender people to use the bathroom that aligns with their gender identity it upholds traditional ideas of gender binaries such as segregating the sexes in public facilities. This shows McCrory values maintaining societal norms, gender norms and traditionalist societal structures.

Gavin Grimm

Gavin Grimm is a transgender activist who became a prominent figure in fighting for transgender rights in the US, specifically bathroom access rights. As a highschool student in Virginia, Grimm was not allowed to use the bathroom that aligned with his gender identity as a transgender student after his school board adopted a rule that prohibited pupils from using common bathrooms if they had gender identity issues. Grimm was forced to use a single stall bathroom separate from the girls or boys bathroom. In 2015 Grimm filed a lawsuit against the Gloucester country school board for discriminating against him in violation of the Equal Protection Clause and Title IX of the U.S. Education Amendments of 1972, a federal law prohibiting sex discrimination by schools. After four years of litigation and being sent to the Supreme court, the US district court ruled in favour of Grimm for all his claims and was awarded \$1.3m. Grimm's response to the transgender bathroom access issue was to file a lawsuit against the school board preventing him from using the bathroom that aligned with his gender identity and further advocate for trans rights in America. In an interview with Nico Lang, published by them.us, Grimm describes his reasoning for the lawsuit as *"My fight was motivated by justice, fairness, and the treatment that everybody deserves. It was not even about me as an individual. It's about the principle that discrimination is illegal."* These quotes clearly displays that Grimm's action taken in response to not being allowed to use the boys bathroom was motivated by justice. These beliefs and values show Grimm's motivation for change align with ideologies of social justice. By taking legal action against the school board, this shows Grimm was fighting for justice for not only himself but for other transgender students that would be in his place. This reflects values of equality, access for all, trans rights and justice. These values align with the ideology of social justice and human rights.

Compare and Contrast

Both perspectives heavily value safety and protection, specifically of people susceptible of abuse such as children, women and trans women. The sources that were against transgender access to bathrooms often referenced protecting women and female safe spaces. Opposing views would claim to prioritise safety of trans women and trans kids.

Evaluation

The sources I found were helpful to answering the questions and writing my report. In all of my sources I found pretty clear views and perspectives which made answering the first question easy. Answering the second question was harder as I couldn't find a lot of information on protests or public action, but found more when looking at the legal side. I think I could've made my answers to question two stronger by looking for sources directly related to the actions people took, and this would have allowed me to more clearly connect the perspectives people have and the types of action they took.

Throughout my inquiry I struggled to find perspectives from people against transgender bathroom access online, and had to search up specific bills/laws restricting transgender access to bathrooms and research who signed off the bills or who was in support of them. Thats how I discovered HB2, Pat McCrory and Gavin Grimm. My research was also only confined to the US which was not my intention. By only having US voices It made keeping continuity when answering questions easier but also left out major voices, key people and events in this issue that I could have gotten from other countries. I originally wanted to focus

my questions on New Zealand but found a small amount of information and barely any primary sources, so I had to narrow my approach. Although I think its still important to acknowledge the global significance of American politics as it is such a major focus point in world politics and especially western politics.

I found the GenderGP source was biased through its tone and language. As well as not directly citing who wrote the article did not make it seem reliable. But throughout the article the author backed up their claims with evidence and statistics which strengthened the source. It was a useful source because it was more of an opinion piece which really helped me find a foundation in perspectives and ideologies that supported trans bathroom access. The Washington post article on Mark Robinson was very helpful. Through the collection of quotes from Robinson I was able to piece together a cohesive thread of values and ideologies for the opposing side of the argument. Because all of the quotes from the article were linked with videos I was able to fact check the validity of the quotes, which therefore made my report more reliable as well as I had confidence in these sources. However, this source could have been made more reliable if they linked to a full recording of Robinsons speeches instead of short clips of snippets of his speech. The npr interview with Pat McCrory was not that useful. Apart from giving some quotes about his traditional views, it did not give a lot of information about HB2 which would have helped me more answering what actions did he take in response to the issue. The Gavin Grimm interview was probably the strongest source as it really went deep into why and how Grimm responded to the issue. I was able to find the most content to annotate in the source table as the interview was so relevant to my inquiry. I was able to generally avoid a lot of bias from opposing viewpoints to transgender bathroom access mainly because it was so hard to find perspectives of that view. Sifting through articles that blatantly were using biased language for transgender bathroom access made it hard to find solid sources that were balanced because people have such strong views on the issue.

I could have improved on my Inquiry by trying to engage more in longer sources – such as documentary or longer articles or even journal articles. There was an Al-jazeera one that looked relevant, but I started to run out of time. They have a good reputation for fair journalism, so this source could have been helpful. Particularly as by watching and reading these longer sources they may have gone deeper into the topic and both sides of the argument, which would have made by write up more detailed and maybe more balanced as I would have explored the arguments for both perspectives more deeply.

The student provided basic footnoting throughout and a reference list at the end. These have been removed for brevity.

Grade: Merit

For Merit, the student needs to conduct a critical social inquiry in depth.

In addition to the Achieved criteria, this involves analysing by comparing and contrasting points of view, values, and perspectives that relate to the focus of the inquiry.

The student has met the Achieved criteria for developing a research question, gathering information and background ideas, reporting on their findings, and evaluating the social inquiry process in relation to the findings.

The student has effectively analysed the contrasting viewpoints of Steinem and Coney Barrett by discussing, at a depth expected at curriculum level 8, their perspectives, values, and viewpoints—clearly articulating their relationship. The student has explained how the perspectives, values, and viewpoints have underpinned the actions taken by both women, and this has been done using appropriate supporting evidence (such as direct quotes) and citing specific actions taken with detail.

When comparing the two viewpoints and perspectives, the student examines the different viewpoints by considering their underlying values, influence, and the popularity of each view in society at different times. Towards the end of the section, the discussion is connected back to the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, which is the focus of the inquiry. Detailed supporting evidence is used throughout, ensuring this section meets the threshold for 'in-depth' as required for Merit.

For Excellence, there must be a critical evaluation of the findings and consideration of their implications in contexts outside the inquiry. The student begins to examine this when they identify same-sex marriage as having the potential to be banned within the United States. Further developing this idea to consider how similar perspectives/ideologies are at play, the position of same-sex marriage within the United States judicial system, and why it could or could not be subject to similar treatment in the courts in the coming years would be the type of discussion expected at Excellence.

Inquiry Focus: Roe v Wade**Focus Questions:**

1. Explain, compare and contrast the most influential perspectives/ideologies regarding the overturning of Roe V. Wade.
2. Describe actions that have been taken in response to the perspectives/ideologies on the overturning of Roe V. Wade?
3. What are the implications of these findings for different places, issues or groups?

Source 1:

Directors:	Sundberg Annie, Stem Ricki.	Year of Publication	(2018)	Date Accessed	08/07/2022
Title	"Reversing Roe."				
Description of key ideas	• Clinic Security: "They keep trying to push their religion on others in a nation with supposed religious freedom." • Sherri's Story: Sherri, pregnant with a much-wanted baby, took thalidomide, which causes severe birth defects. Her doctor recommended an abortion, but the hospital denied it. "I just want to do what's right for myself and my family." • Gloria Steinem & Dr. Curtis Boyd: Gloria, a feminist activist, had an illegal abortion in England. Dr. Boyd, a gynecologist, began providing abortions in 1967, risking his job. "I can make a difference and I'm going to take the risk." • Texas Law: Doctors must show patients a sonogram before an abortion to sway their decision, which is seen as unethical and invalidating the patient's choice.				

Source 2:

Author	New York Times, Tavernise, Sabrina.	Year of Publication	(2018)	Date Accessed	29/07/2022
Title	'Roe V. Wade, Part 1: Who was Jane Roe? (From the Archive).'				
Description of key ideas	• Norma McCarthy (Jane Roe) tried to get an abortion and wasn't able to do so, as abortion has been criminalised across the United States. She then went to an illegal abortion clinic but was unsuccessful in receiving an abortion, as no one was at the clinic to carry out the procedure. • Curtis Boyd, a gynaecologist, risks his job given the criminalisation of abortion. Boyd stated "My head and my heart and my hands said to do this. I can make a difference and I'm going to take the risk." • Pro Life people storm a planned parenthood centre, stating: "There won't be any murder here today. There will be no abortions in here today," as they do so. They also employed their motto "We're here to rescue the innocent child sentenced to die today."				

Source 3:

Author	Right-to-Life-Committee	Year of Publication	(1973)	Date Accessed	29/07/2022
Title	'Who Killed Junior?' https://www.comicsgrid.com/article/id/3584/				
Description of Key Ideas	Page 9 of the article 'Information Labour and Shame in Farmer and Chevill's <i>Abortion Eve</i>,' discusses the concept that the unborn foetus has no rights or say in what happens to him is addressed in this newspaper cartoon. This source takes away the idea that the woman in the illustration could be getting an abortion for whatever reason, however, the life and wellbeing of her unborn child is more important than that of the mother. Stating that the baby's mother and doctor are 'discussing how to kill him,' is harmful, as it makes abortion as a procedure seem violent and inhumane. The overall purpose of this cartoon is to prioritise and show the importance of this unborn baby, and how it is of more significance than its own mother.				

Source 4:

Author	Stephanie Kirchgaessener (Guardian)	Year of Publication	2020	Date Accessed	29/07/2022
Title	"Barrett was member of anti-abortion group that promoted clinic criticized for misleading women" https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/oct/11/amy-coney-barrett-member-right-to-life-organization				
Description of Key Ideas	- Amy Coney Barrett signed a 2006 newspaper ad saying Roe v. Wade was "barbaric" and should be overturned, showing she strongly opposes abortion. - She was linked to a group that believes life begins at fertilization, which means she supports very strict anti-abortion views. - Barrett has said most abortions happen for social reasons, which fits her belief that abortion shouldn't be used as birth control. - She has spoken about judges not making law but applying it, which matches her conservative view that courts shouldn't expand rights like abortion. - Barrett's past actions and statements suggest she will support limiting abortion rights if given the chance, because of her strong pro-life stance.				

Other sources had been included, but these have been removed for brevity.

Report Findings:

Viewpoint/ Perspective/ Ideology 1

There are many varying perspectives on the topic of abortion. These perspectives can be religiously or traditionally motivated, or built on the idea that women should have the right to make a choice for themselves, as they are in charge of themselves and their unborn foetus. One religious perspective can be seen through the Christian Reform Church, as they strongly oppose abortion and deem the medical treatment as being immoral. The article by 'Christian Reformed Church,' states: "Because the CRC believes that all human beings are image bearers of God, it affirms the unique value of all human life. Mindful of the sixth commandment—"You shall not murder" (Ex. 20:13)—the church condemns the wanton or arbitrary destruction of any human being at any stage of its development from the point of conception to the point of death. The church affirms that an induced abortion is an allowable option only when the life of the mother-to-be is genuinely threatened by the continuation of the pregnancy."¹ This particular viewpoint is widely common among the Christian community, as they tend to prioritise the life of an unborn foetus, rather than the person carrying it. To Christian people that obtain this viewpoint, there is nothing wrong with this belief, as they believe they are merely protecting the unborn child, and its future. However, people who are pro-choice argue that this belief is flawed, as the concept of abortion being induced, unless the pregnant person is genuinely in danger or at risk due to the pregnancy are in desperate need of determining their pregnancy, is harmful, as it encourages the idea that in order for a woman to have a say in what happens to her body, she needs to be violated/harmed beforehand. One particular viewpoint that stems from/is inspired by Christianity and opposes abortion, is shown through Amy Coney Barrett, a member of the United States' Supreme Court. She was nominated by former president, Donald Trump, and has been serving in her role since October 27th, 2020. Her political views and how she expresses them leads many to believe that her and her views are conservative and opposes abortion, as she is one of the many members of the United States' Supreme Court that voted to have Roe V. Wade overturned.

Viewpoint/ Perspective/ Ideology 2

The overturning of Roe V. Wade in the United States has once again struck up the argument of pro-choice v pro-life, as women have been forced to advocate for their right to basic healthcare. Many people are outraged that the United States' Supreme Court is predominantly male, and the vast majority of have voted against abortion, although they are not the ones being directly affected by this change in law.

A different perspective to the Christian conservative perspective of Amy Coney Barret is the feminist perspective on abortion rights. Feminists are pro-life for a number of reasons. Mainly, they believe in bodily autonomy and that women should have the rights to make decisions about their own bodies and not have men, who are often the ones in power and making legislation dictate when they should be forced to have children. They also see access to fair and safe abortion as very important for achieving gender equality. Without control over their reproductive lives, women may face significant barriers to education and employment. Gloria Steinem is an example of someone who holds this perspective and viewpoint. During the initial Roe v. Wade decision in 1973, Gloria Steinem was actively involved in advocating for women's reproductive rights. As a co-founder of Ms. Magazine, Steinem played a very important role in publishing content that supported the pro-choice movement. The magazine featured stories and articles that highlighted the struggles women faced due to abortion laws and the need for safe, legal access to abortion service. Steinem emphasizes that access to abortion is crucial for women's equality. She stated, "First anger, because that means that female human beings are not going to be equal citizens who have power over our own physical selves". Steinem highlights the importance of safe and legal abortion, noting, "Nothing but nothing can stop women from taking control of their bodies, which sometimes means having an abortion. The

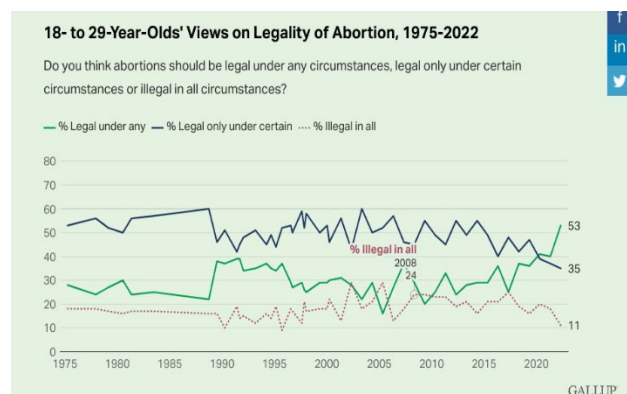
question is in safety". This highlights how both aspects of the feminist perspective -gender equality and bodily autonomy are part of the pro-choice viewpoint. When Roe v Wade was overturned, she once again had to be an important advocate for pro-choice.

Explanation of differences by comparing and contrasting perspectives

Both these perspectives are considered with human rights and the debate often comes back to who is able to 'have a voice' and advocate for themselves in society. The pro-life movement are concerned for the rights of the child and that they are unable to protect themselves from harm, whereas the pro-choice feminist perspective argue that abortion both harms women physically, but also 'harms' their broader rights within society and puts them further behind gender equality.

Within the United States both perspectives have been influential at different times. Dating back to the early Roman Catholic Church, abortion has been consistently frowned upon and people have aimed to prevent the occurrence of this particular medical procedure where possible. In the United States, abortion was criminalised during the late 1800's. This infringement upon granting people basic healthcare, and allowing them access to their human rights, is largely influenced by Christianity and the idea that all life is a gift from God.

However, progression, diversity and increasingly less religious society meant that these views began to slowly shift and this assisted in the legalization of abortion. The overall influence of the pro-choice perspective proves to be of significance, as people who support and advocate for the legalisation of abortion, were able to have certain laws overturned. This change in law has had long-lasting and significant effects on society and certain aspects of people's wellbeing as a whole.



However, according to NPR, "The percentage of Americans who consider themselves "pro-choice" has risen in the past year to 55%, its highest level in decades" This evidence shows that despite the large and clearly impactful influence of Christianity and the increase of conservatism generally, many people still identify as being Pro-Choice. Other comparisons between these two perspectives can be supported by the

concept that a lot of young people are prominently pro-choice. Meaning that when future generations are granted more political freedom and progress as a society, it is likely that the amount of pro-choice views are likely to increase and have more of a long-lasting impact. This perhaps also fits with the general increase in feminist views and that women should have more rights within society.

This is particularly interesting to look at when considering the overturning of Roe v Wade. Despite most young people holding a pro-choice viewpoint, this is not what was reflected in the Supreme Court decision. Additionally, when Roe v. Wade was overturned in June 2022, public opinion in the United States was notably in favour of the pro-choice viewpoint. According to a survey conducted by the Pew Research Center nearly a year after the decision, 62% of U.S. adults believed that abortion should be legal in all or most cases, while 36% thought it should be illegal in all or most cases.

This shows us that it is not so much the viewpoints of most people that have an influence in this debate, but more so the viewpoints of the politicians at the time, and the justices who have been appointed to the courts that shape the issue.

Q2. Actions / Responses

Action / Response 1

An action that Amy Coney Barrett took can be seen in an article by 'The Guardian.' The article states: "Amy Coney Barrett, the supreme court nominee, was a member of a "right to life" organization in 2016 that promoted a local South Bend, Indiana, crisis pregnancy center, a clinic that has been criticised for misleading vulnerable women who were seeking abortions and pressuring them to keep their pregnancies."² It can be argued that the motivation of this action was motivated by her Christian beliefs and distaste to abortion, something that many consider a very much necessary form of healthcare. The same article continues to reveal "The revelation adds to a growing body of evidence that Barrett, who has served as an appellate court judge since 2017, has advocated against abortion, abortion rights, and publicly supported the reversal of Roe v Wade in the years before she joined the federal bench. The Guardian has reported that she signed a letter in a newspaper in 2006 that called for the landmark abortion law to be reversed and called the legacy of Roe "barbaric"."³ Amy Coney Barret being a part of this anti-abortion groups, and advocating for the criminalisation of abortion, proves to be a harmful action, as it deprives people across the United States' of an abortion, should they choose to have an abortion. Similarly, information regarding Coney Baret's political views are discussed in NPR's article 'A Look At Amy Coney Barrett's Record On Abortion Rights.' The text states: "During her Senate confirmation hearings for her seat on the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in 2017, Barrett — who has spoken openly about her Catholic faith — was asked about her personal views on Roe v. Wade. She gave a version of what's become a standard answer to that question for people in her position, saying, "All nominees are united in their belief that what they think about a precedent should not bear on how they decide cases."⁴ Ultimately, Amy Coney Barrett obtains a Pro-Life ideology and is a perfect example of religiously motivated views, and the overall impact that they can have. While the pro-life community tend to support Amy Coney Barrett and her actions, the goodness and genuinity of her actions are largely up for interpretation. There are many people that disagree with and oppose her harsh views, as they can be seen as harmful and unfair. To some, it has become apparent that her partake in the recent strict ban on abortion across the United States, is not only selfish, as she is infringing upon the rights of others, she is also abusing her power and taking advantage of her role in the supreme court.

Action / Response 2

In response to the overturning of Roe v Wade, Gloria Steinem took several actions which aligned to her feminist, pro-choice viewpoint.

One of the main things she did was to use her platform and her public profile as a feminist advocate to raise awareness to the issue and the implications of the decision. As a well-known feminist voice, she was quickly able to get interviews with the main news outlets to communicate the dangers of overturning Roe v Wade to women's rights. She went out publicly and called it a 'sucker punch' for Women's rights, highlighting the danger his decisions put women in and emphasising that this further reinforces patriarchal structures, by saying "If men could get pregnant, abortion would be a sacrament." Examples of her media engagements included going on Katie Couric to discuss the history of Roe v. Wade and the ongoing fight for reproductive rights. She also had interviews with the likes of NPR and PBS where she discussed the implications of the Supreme Court's decision. Although not as involved in the actual protests as she was during earlier feminist movements, likely due to her age, she still was an important voice in the initial months after the overturning to stand up for the pro-choice movement.

In a symbolic gesture, Steinem also started wearing a Prisoner of War-style bracelet, popularized during the Vietnam War, following the leaked draft of the decision. This was to honor and remember Rosie Jimenez. Rosie Jimenez was one of the first women to die from an illegal abortion due to the Hyde Amendment, which restricted the use of federal funds for abortions. This was a way to visibly express her opposition and solidarity with those affected.

Evaluation - Process

The nature of the topic meant that in order to use primary source evidence I was often having to use sources that were biased to the views of the person who was presenting them. For example, the 2018 New York Times article is very biased, as the author, Sabrina Tavernise, shows her pro-choice viewpoints through this perspective. But using these types of primary sources is helpful because I want to be able to see how people express their viewpoints on the issue in their own words. So if both sides are being looked at with primary sources equally this should mean that my report overall has balance. But on reflection, I realise that I only looked at Amy Coney Barrett's viewpoint through secondary sources, like the Guardian and NPR and although these are reliable, they probably have a slight left bias which may mean that this isn't as accurate as it could be.

One source that I found particularly important is the Reversing Roe documentary. This source gives the audience into the historical and recent aspect of this issue (and is technically a secondary source with primary evidence) and also discusses the two perspectives surrounding this controversial debate. This source has proven to be effective, as I was able to gain more insight and knowledge into this topic, putting me at an advantage when researching and writing about this issue. It was helpful to watch this at the beginning of the process as it helped put the other sources I looked at, such as primary sources, in context and this probably helped pick up if they were not reliable.

It was easier to find sources that clearly belonged to a Pro-Choice perspective, as opposed to a Pro-Life perspective. The reasoning for this may be that many people who are outraged by this harsh change in law, are Pro-Choice and are outraged with the large setback and became more publicly outspoken and dominated the media coverage of the event. So, it is possible that because my range of pro-life sources were more limited, that this part isn't done as well.

I feel as though I could have made improvements to the areas in which I discussed the perspectives. It may have been helpful to look more at the background of both ideologies. I found a source "A concise history of the US abortion debate" on The Conversation website which looks like it had lots of interesting facts which might have improved my report but I didn't look into it at the time as I didn't think it was relevant. This would be something I would improve for next time as it would perhaps help explain the reasons for each group feeling so strongly about the issue.

Significance of findings

When researching this issue, I also came across articles discussing the implications of Roe v. Wade being overturned in the United States. One such implication is that Gay marriage may also be banned in the country, and they are continuing to take steps that set them further back as a country.

Outside implications:

Because the United States is a very well-known and influential country, there is the possibility that other countries may be inspired to ban abortion as well or advocate for reproductive rights, to ensure that laws aren't changed, and abortion remains accessible to all women across all countries.

The student provided basic footnoting throughout and a reference list at the end. These have been removed for brevity.

Grade: Excellence

For Excellence, the student must conduct a critical social inquiry comprehensively.

This involves evaluating the findings and considering the implications of the findings in contexts outside the inquiry.

The student has met the Achieved criteria for developing a research question, gathering information and background ideas, reporting on their findings, and evaluating the findings.

The depth of discussion in relation to the different perspectives, viewpoints, and values on both sides of the debate and how they underpin actions taken on both sides clearly meets the threshold for an explanation, as they can connect how the four different elements relate to each other. The comparison of these perspectives, viewpoints, and values also allows for the Merit criteria to be satisfied by identifying where there are similarities in their fundamental beliefs and where the two perspectives and viewpoints diverge.

For Excellence, the student has considered the implications of the findings in contexts beyond their inquiry. They have done this in two ways: first, by examining how these findings fit into the historical context of exclusion within feminism, and second, by exploring how the conservative approach of bioessentialism is also foundational to understanding the current debate on transwomen's participation in sports. Appropriate supporting evidence has been used in this section.

Additionally, they have also critically evaluated the findings by offering some critiquing of their sufficiency, inclusiveness, and significance. Further use of specific evidence when discussing sufficiency could have been beneficial in securing the judgement.

Inquiry Focus: Treatment of trans-women within feminism**Inquiry Questions:**

- What are the influential perspectives, ideologies, values and beliefs that impact the treatment of trans women in relation to feminism?
- What actions have been taken in response to the views, attitudes, beliefs and values produced from these different perspectives/ideologies?
- What are the implications these findings on the exclusion of trans women from feminism on the overall understanding of gender identity in society? (*in another place/on another issue/on different groups*).

Background information:

The debate about the position of transwomen in feminism is complex and often heated. Some feminists, believe that trans rights are a crucial part of feminism. They argue that fighting against transphobia is essential for achieving gender equality and that transwomen should be fully included in feminist movements. However, there is another group known as gender-critical feminists or trans-exclusionary radical feminists (TERFs). They believe that womanhood is based on biological sex and argue that transwomen, who were assigned male at birth, do not share the same experiences as cisgender women. This group often opposes the inclusion of transwomen in women's spaces and feminist activities

This debate has led to significant tension within feminist circles. Supporters of trans inclusion emphasize the importance of intersectionality, which considers how different aspects of identity, such as gender, race, and sexuality, intersect and impact one's experiences. They argue that excluding transwomen from feminism ignores the diversity of women's experiences and perpetuates discrimination.

Possible Sources:

- Wikipedia - *Feminist views on transgender topics*. In Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia:
from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Feminist_views_on_transgender_topic
- Dawson, J. (2020, July 10). *Trans women are women. It's time to move past harmful debate*. Time, from <https://time.com/5865581/transphobia-terf-harm/>
- Romano, A. (2020, June 10). *J.K. Rowling's latest controversy and the polarization of the Harry Potter fandom*. Vox, from <https://www.vox.com/culture/21285396/jk-rowling-transphobic-backlash-harry-potter>
- Dockterman, E. (2021, March 31). *Raquel Willis on her open letter to protect trans women*. Time, from <https://time.com/5950855/raquel-willis-trans-women-discrimination-interview/>

Perspective and Viewpoint #1

One perspective that can be seen on the treatment of transgender women within feminism in society highlights a social justice and progressive perspective, one that supports trans women and any transgender individuals in any modern movements and issues. This falls into the category of 'intersectional feminism', which argue that feminism should be inclusive

of all women, if the movement is to address the diverse form of oppression that face women around the world. People who share this perspective generally value equality, inclusiveness and working to educate and help others to understand the difference between facts and misinformation when it comes to the relation between gender identity, gender expression, biological sex and sexual orientation.

The exclusion of trans women from feminism is one of many challenges faced in relation to transwomen within feminism. A group in particular which displays this perspective is Gender Minorities Aotearoa. This group operates as a part of the kaupapa Māori public health framework Te Pae Māhutonga and the Ottawa Charter (1986) in New Zealand. And they believe in the inclusion and equality for all transgender individuals across all cultures and backgrounds, in particular, the support of transgender women as a part of feminism. *“Trans women’s rights are women’s rights - and women’s rights are human rights,”* this demonstrates the group’s belief that transgender issues are intertwined with feminist issues. Gender Minorities Aotearoa holds this point of view of personal freedom and understanding due to personal and interpersonal experiences. The organisation itself is run by transgender individuals and advocates strongly for their own rights and the rights of others. Their shared beliefs of equality and acceptance have been shaped due to experiences of discrimination and hate on the basis of gender identity. In terms of their point of view on the exclusion of trans women’s exclusion from feminism, their values push them to take a proud stance of support, LGBTQIA+ education and awareness in the NZ community.

Perspective and Viewpoint #2

An opposing perspective that can be seen on the issue of exclusion of trans women from feminism can be seen among TERFs - Trans Exclusionary Radical Feminists. TERFs is an umbrella term for any feminists who purposely reject the rights of transgender women when advocating for women’s rights. This highlights a conservative perspective within feminism, founded on the conservative approach to gender. TERFs include a wide range of people, however, their shared point of view can come down to what defines a women’s experience in terms of feminism - *‘who constitutes as a woman, what constitutes as feminist interests and how can transgender politics intersect with feminist politics?’*

This point of view on the exclusion of trans women from feminism is based on the conservative belief that sex is biologically determined and that women are those born with reproductive anatomy. They emphasise that cisgender women have unique experiences, such as menstruation and pregnancy and it is these experiences that has contributed to the inequalities faced by women in society. One trans-exclusionary feminist states; *“broadly speaking, our analysis is that women’s lives are shaped by their physical difference from males as well as the cultural meanings derived from these.”* This demonstrates trans-exclusionary feminists’ emphasis on the physical body, valuing the differences between man and woman and acknowledging the historical roots of feminism within the patriarchy. They do not accept the concept of ‘gender identity’ and they see it as something that is tied to traditional gender roles. *Understanding sexual difference to be an important facet of human experience, we seek a form of equality that recognises it. We do not accept the newer concept of gender identity - the feeling of being male or female - as a substitute.”*

Compare and Contrast

Both the examples of a progressive/intersectional feminist perspective as well as a more conservative perspective on the exclusion of trans women from feminism have certain similarities, that mainly being the core value of rights for minorities – specifically women. They acknowledging that the patriarchy has led women to be in a disadvantaged position in society and that more needs to be more to progress women’s rights and that by doing this, society as a whole will improve. Both groups are similar in that they are active advocates for

awareness and change.

However, while they fundamentally agree on the overall goals of feminism, their viewpoints differ regarding who can be included and identified as a 'feminist'. The difference hangs on a few key ideas. Firstly, that TERFs fundamentally believe that including transwomen into the feminist space counters the goals of feminism overall as they do not have the same experiences of cisgendered women. Whereas, more progressive perspectives, such as the group Gender Minorities Aotearoa, remain different in that they value breaking into a more inclusive society and that as transwomen are a group oppressed by the patriarchy, they have a place within the movement.

Another key aspect where they vary is in their views on biological gender and sexuality. TERFS believe that sex is biologically determined and that being a woman is tied to biological characteristics. They view trans-women as men. Whereas the progressive perspective has a more inclusive view on gender and sexual identity and that transwomen are 'women'.

Actions and Responses:

Action/Response 1:

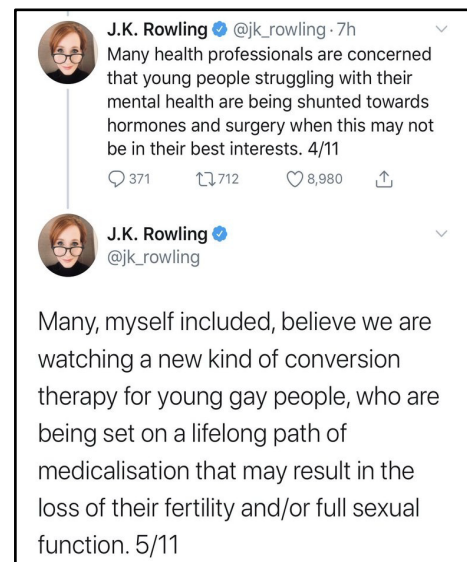
An action which was taken in response to a progressive/intersectional perspective can be seen in online education and support, particularly from prominent, influential feminist activists. One such activist by the name of Raqual Willis, along with GLAAD, published an open letter for which more than 465 activists - plus celebrities and organisations - came together to sign this letter in support of trans women and girls.

This was a response encouraged by the heavily widespread number of bills in the United States restricting the rights of transgender youth. Most notably were the bills preventing transgender girls from competing in women's sports, however, other bills also hindered trans youth's access to gender-affirming healthcare. Which can result in significantly negative effects on individuals' mental health. This open letter was published on March 31st, 2021, which is the day to celebrate Transgender Visibility and strongly advocates for any feminists in business, entertainment, media, advocacy, politics and social justice to publicly "*join the conversation*" and be direct in expressing support for transgender and non-binary individuals. This letter addresses inequalities for trans youth and trans-exclusionary feminist views as well. "*We believe that honouring the diversity of women's experience is a strength, not a detriment to the feminist cause.*" This letter is a platform used to directly explain that every individual is deserving of the same freedom, opportunities and access, whether a transgender woman or a cisgender woman. That respect should be given for every person's right to their own bodily autonomy. In response to TERFs in particular, the letter states "*their vitriol is, in fact, not feminist at all. True feminists do not wish to limit any woman's identity or freedom to be fully herself. [...]. Our feminism must be unapologetically expansive so that we can leave the door open for future generations*". This action is influenced by the progressive perspective, as its primary aim is for inclusion, evolving society, understanding and equality, all important aspects of a progressive ideology. This idea of supporting others to allow for more and better inclusion is a key aspect of this perspective which has pushed for this response to take place.

Actions/Response 2:

One action which was taken in relation to the exclusion of transgender women from feminism can be seen in a very widespread 'essay' from famous *Harry Potter* author J.K. Rowling in 2020. Rowling is widely regarded as a TERF, a trans-exclusionary feminist, due to her active promotion of views which exclude transgender women from feminism and the crucial rights that feminism advocates for. This essay was largely written and published in

support of other trans-exclusionary feminists, and to bring awareness to the view point that trans activism can lead to the *“erosion of women’s and girls’ rights.”* This essay addresses the Maya Forstater case, Rowling actively choosing to omit the fact that Forstater wanted her belief that gender identity does not exist to be protected, and instead chose to describe this as *“her belief that sex is determined by biology is protected in law.”* Rowling’s work promotes that the inclusion of transgender women in feminism is a push towards *‘eroding’* the legal definition of sex, instead replacing this with gender. It also briefly addresses her concerns that trans activism can have a negative affect on child welfare and safety, but does not go into detail. The statements; *“some say they decided to transition after realising they were same-sex attracted,”* as well as; *“nobody, the activists insisted, could be persuaded into being trans,”* actively promote the belief that transitioning is a choice. Rowling also gives a platform to Rapid Onset Gender Dysphoria, which is not a condition recognised by any governing medical bodies. *“I’ve read all the arguments about femaleness not residing in the sexed body, and the assertions that biological women don’t have common experiences, and I find them, too, deeply misogynistic and regressive. It’s also clear that one of the objectives of denying the importance of sex is to erode what some seem to see as the cruelly segregationist idea of women having their own biological realities.”* This statement is clearly influenced by the conservative view determining a woman by body parts. Emphasising the physical differences between man and woman a key part of Rowling’s feminism that she wished to further promote using her platform and fame. Influenced by ideas and beliefs of exclusion and fearful ‘what-if’ scenarios, she concluded, with regards to male violence that ; *“so I want trans women to be safe. At the same time, I do not want to make girls and women less safe. When you throw open the doors of bathrooms and changing rooms to any man who believes or feels he’s a woman – and, as I’ve said, gender confirmation certificates may now be granted without any need for surgery or hormones – then you open the door to all men who wish to come inside.”* In doing, J.K. Rowling’s response actively promotes and fuels the exclusion of transgender women from feminism.



Considering the implications of the findings in contexts outside the inquiry:

#1

The debate around the role of transwomen within the movement of feminism reflects a wider issue that has consistently been part the feminist debate – who is included and who is excluded? Early feminist movements, particularly during the suffrage era. Within the United States, African American women were often excluded from mainstream suffrage organizations and events. As such, two different advocacy groups forms, one who supported the suffrage rights for all US citizens formed the “American Woman Suffrage Association”, while those who wanted those rights for white people only founded the “National Women Suffrage Association”. Regardless, black women were often excluded from being involved in the cause – leading them to form the National Association of Colour Women. Even after women were granted the vote through the 19th Amendment being passed in 1920, African American women in the south faced racial discrimination and were discouraged from voting through intimidation and fear. Native American women were not considered US citizens until 1924. While in New Zealand there wasn’t a open debate about

the rights of Māori women to get the vote, it's recognised that the suffrage movement was led predominantly by Pākehā, with only a small handful of Māori women signing the petition that went to parliament in 1893.

Within the second-wave feminist movement, lesbians were frequently excluded. The term "lavender menace" was coined by Betty Friedan – a prominent figure in the National Organisation for Women (NOW) who believe that lesbians were a threat to the feminist movement and would distract from it's goals. In response to this perceived exclusion, a group of lesbian feminists, including members of the Gay Liberation Front (GLF) and NOW, formed the group Radicalesbians and staged the "Lavender Menace" protest at the Second Congress to Unite Women. The protesters, wearing purple T-shirts (purple being a colour associated with lesbians) and carrying signs, disrupted the conference and demanded that the feminist movement address the needs and concerns of lesbians. The Lavender Menace highlighted the intersectionality of gender and sexual orientation, demonstrating that the fight for equality must include the needs and experiences of all marginalized group.

This highlights that the exclusion of groups within the feminist movement has been a long-standing issue. However, through active protest and 'calling out' exclusionary behaviour and as society at large becomes more inclusive over times, groups that were historically left out, become included. Based on the above two examples, one could assume that in the decades to come the inclusion of transwomen into feminism will no longer be met with such hostility.

#2

The position of transwomen within society, doesn't only affect them in response to where they fit within the feminist movement. It is also central to other debates – such as their role in sporting competition.

Similarly, the debate falls along similar lines, with those subscribing to the conservative view on gender arguing for biological essentialism – stating that the biological differences between males and females, such as muscle mass and bone density, create unfair advantages in sports. They believe that allowing transgender women (assigned male at birth) to compete in women's sports undermines fairness. Whereas those who subscribe to a more progressive view on transgender inclusion, believing in human rights and equality argue transgender individuals should have the same rights and opportunities as everyone else, including the right to participate in sports according to their gender identity. This debate continues to play out. In March 2023 In March 2023, World Athletics decided to exclude transgender women who have gone through male puberty from female events. The organization's president, Lord Coe, stated that this action was taken to "protect the female category in our sport. However, just over a year later in October 2024, the Sport & Rights Alliance, along with other organizations, issued a statement affirming that the inclusion of trans, gender diverse, and intersex persons in sports is a human right. They called for inclusive approaches to ensure safe and equitable participation for all individuals, regardless of gender identity.

Evaluation - Process:

I do not believe that I found an effective balance between primary and secondary sources, only one out seven of my analysed resources were primary sources. This may have resulted in a heavy reliance on second-hand information, which is likely to have been altered to better fit the narrative the article would be explaining. While I do believe I was successful in finding

articles and sources from various perspectives on the issue of trans exclusion from feminism, these were almost all secondary sources (i.e. Time Magazine and the Guardian) with little first-hand information being used to balance this. Finding interviews with specific individuals who align with both perspectives may have been valuable in giving my report more balance.

The article from Vox described J.K. Rowling's infamous essay, as well as her original copy of this essay and the sources from GLAAD and Time which described Raquel Willis' open letter in support of transgender girls and women were my most valuable sources. These were helpful in my understanding of the exclusion of trans women from feminism, as they not only displayed obvious progressive and conservative ideologies, actions taken in response to these perspectives, but also gave me a clear picture of the larger implications of these perspectives and actions, allowing me to answer Question 3 with more, clear understanding.

A difficulty I faced when gathering information from the range of sources I found was excluding my own, personal perspective. I very strongly align with the progressive ideology on the exclusion of trans women from feminism and it was quite hard to ignore this when analysing the information from sources which highlighted the conservative perspective. I have a clear bias and so, I believe even in my report, I struggled to write impassively towards the information presented from the conservative ideology. As this was a highly emotive topic, finding sources that weren't heavily influenced by personal viewpoint, or the bent of the publications (i.e. Vox is generally left leaning) was at times challenging.

Evaluation – Findings:

Sufficiency

I believe in terms of question 1, I was able to find very sufficient information as there was an overload of information available on the web for perspectives on the exclusion of trans women from feminism. As noted, most of this information is opinion-based, it made finding different similar and contrasting perspectives easier. However, this did mean I was lacking in sufficient factual backing for these perspectives. Exploring more academic articles, looking at the issue from an academic framework could have been a way to balance this. In terms of question 2, I believe I could have found further information as I only link a couple of articles for each of my two actions described. The particular action of the open letter took a while to find, and I found it hard to gather sufficient information about the implications of this letter. However, I do think I was able to find an impactful second action, J.K. Rowling's, which had clear implications and sufficient information on this particular response to the conservative ideology.

Inclusiveness:

I believe I was able to comprehensively explain the views seen by TERFs. As noted, this was challenging as it opposed my personal views – but I deliberately source to find direct quotes from people who subscribe to this belief (i.e. JK Rowling, and other trans-exclusionary feminists) to ensure their views on this issue were accurately captured and hopefully not subjected to my interpretation.

Significance:

One issue raised in my findings was the infamous *Harry Potter* author's essay. J.K. Rowling's essay fuelled other severely negative beliefs, due to her preaching that gender dysphoric teens will 'grow out of it'. From my personal standpoint this further perpetuates the narrative that gender dysphoric teenagers and being transgender is a choice. One perspective explained Rowling's essay to be "*misleading and damaging to the trans community*." This author does take the time to describe that while Rowling's words are 'misinformed and made up of half-truths', but it is produced in such a way that it sounds intelligible and believable. Due to her fame and ability to easily spread a message, her words

are being used by lawmakers in the U.S. to justify even more anti-trans laws. By misgendering someone and felt stigma can possess severe negative effects on an individual's mental health. For example, 60% of transgender individuals report mental health issues compared to 37% of cisgender individuals. So, even while JK Rowling's comments were meant to be within the context of feminist 'debate', her popularity and fame have wider implications for society, as her message to exclude transpeople from feminism is used to exclude and discrimination them from society at large.

The student provided basic footnoting throughout and a reference list at the end. These have been removed for brevity.