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Equality

When the Declaration of Independence was written in 1776, the statement of “all men are created equal” was written. Though people have different meanings of what equality is, the gist of it remains the same. From the Civil Rights movement to today’s society, people of different nationalities and gender have fought and attained the rights they were once denied. Even though much has changed since then, sexism still exists. Women today still earn less than their male counterparts when performing the same job. Even though equality in America has changed for the better, I feel that sexism still exists, though to a lesser degree than in the past.

Women during the Civil Rights movement did not have the rights we have today. They weren’t allowed to vote and work; women were expected by men to stay at home to cook, clean, and take care of their children. In the 1960’s, different women’s rights groups began to form. One was the Women's Liberation group, which was made up of mostly female students and others who were participating in the civil rights movement. Another was the Women’s Rights group, a larger group which wanted equal rights and laws to be enforced.

The rights of women have changed since the Civil Rights movements in 1960, but to this day, women still face sexism in America. Women earn less than men in terms of jobs and salaries. Women earn 77 cents on the male dollar according to statistics from 2008. The number drops to 68% for African-American women and 58% for Latinas. Statistics like these are an

example of both sexism and racism, proving that women of different nationalities earn less than the average man.

For the longest time, women were expected to be ordinary housewives. Society has changed and women are more accepted in more authoritative jobs and politics. One example of a woman who achieved this was Sandra Day O'Connor. Sandra Day O'Connor was elected to two terms in the Arizona state senate. Then in 1981, President Ronald Reagan nominated her as a justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. She received unanimous Senate approval, making her the first woman in U.S. history to serve on the Supreme Court. She served on the Supreme Court for 24 years, before retiring in 2006.

The goal of equality for all people regardless of race, gender or any other thing that makes people different from another is a dream that can be achieved. Though women have made great strides and improvements since 1960, we need to continue making improvements in order for this to continue. Women were once relegated to being home makers, to stay home and tend to the family and things around the house while the male was considered the provider for the family. Today's women have broken that mold, and have ascended to the highest levels in corporations, achieved positions in political office, and had a few things been different, may have even been the President of the United States. While many accomplishments have been achieved, and great strides made in equality for women, there are still many improvements that can be achieved.